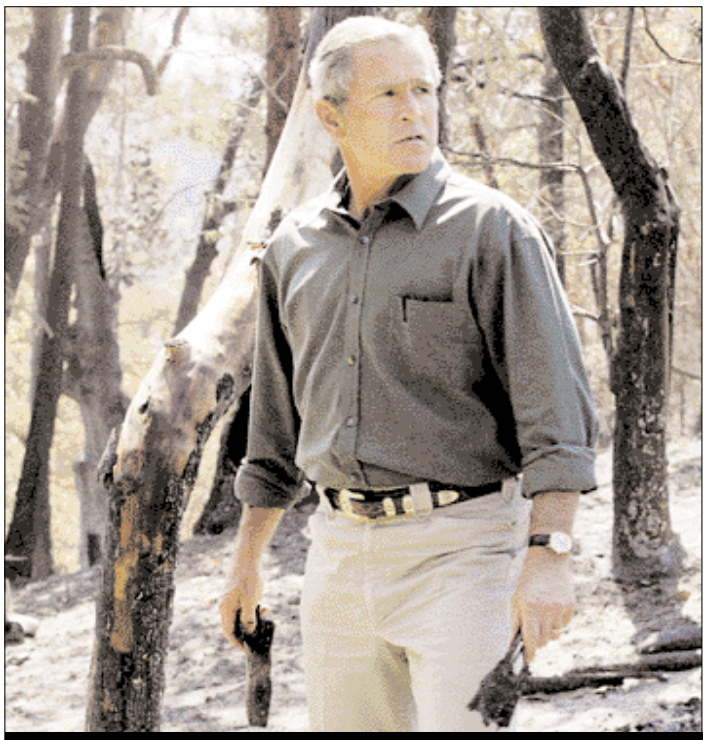
WEST NILE VIRUS: ONLY THE BEGINNING? PAGE 4

Environment & Climate News

©2002 The Heartland Institute | The Monthly Newspaper For Common-Sense Environmentalists | Vol. 5 No. 9 ~ October 2002

"Come stand where I stand!"



President George W. Bush holds charred bark he peeled from a tree during a tour of the Squires Mountain fire site in Oregon on August 22. Bush unveiled at the site his Healthy Forests Initiative, aimed at curbing wildfires by easing regulations on efforts to thin fire-prone dead trees and underbrush in national forests. *Photo: Luke Frazza/AFP*

President challenges extremists, presents Healthy Forests Initiative

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

Standing atop an Oregon mountain summit, President George W. Bush straddled the divide between the old and the new.

On one face of Squires Peak, the ashes of an old and failed forest policy lay literally at the President's feet. On the other face of the mountain, a healthy stand of Douglas fir reached defiantly toward the sky.

Both sides of the mountain had been subjected to the same out-of-control wildfire. "Come stand where I stand!" exclaimed the President, in a challenge to Congress and environmental extremists. "We are trying to bring a little common sense to forest policy!"

The President's August 22 challenge marked the culmination of a historically savage Oregon wildfire, a long and exhausting 2002 wildfire season, and a quest by Congress and concerned environmentalists to restore balance to America's national forests. With the unveiling of his Healthy Forests Initiative on the Squires Peak summit, Bush offered Congress and the American people an alternative to the neglect-

FORESTS continued on page 15

America leads at Johannesburg summit

Private partnerships steal the show at environmental summit

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

One person, two contrasting images.

On September 4, the final day of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, a packed hall of professional demonstrators repeatedly booed and heckled U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell as he announced new American programs to protect the global environment and aid the world's poor.

However, as Powell departed the auditorium, a sea of delegates from countries around the globe vied with each other to shake his hand and extend their compliments.

Professional activists, both foreign and domestic, had flocked to Johannesburg like moths to a

SUMMIT continued on page 18

ACTIVIST UPDATE

Grassroots activists to rally in Florida

Between 20,000 and 30,000 supporters of private property rights expected at October protest in Naples

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

The worst fears of land-acquiring bureaucracies and big-government activist groups have become reality: Last year's Klamath Falls protests were merely the genesis, not the culmination, of a renewed property rights movement.

The evidence is abundant, as citizens from across America are planning the largest property rights rally in recent memory, beginning October 17 in Naples, Florida.

Artificial flooding spurs Rebellion

Naples, located on the west coast of Florida just north of the Everglades, has become the epicenter of a citizen protest movement that has come to be known as the Sawgrass Rebellion. The Rebellion took root as the Army Corps of Engineers began raising the water table in the nearby Everglades. Allegedly motivated by an effort to save the Cape Sable seaside sparrow, the Corps has been condemning and confiscating nearby homes, and flooding out longtime residents beyond the reach of their confiscation powers.

"They don't ever give up," said local homeowner Madeleine Fortin. "They don't ever stop

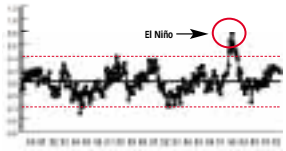
SAWGRASS continued on page 10

INSIDE E&CN

2 Court: Farming is polluting
6 Will politics trump science on chlorine?
8 Stop stalling on NSR reform
9 Logging key to sustainable forestry
11 Everglades plan harms environment
12 Regs make housing less affordable
14 The livability fantasy
17 Review: Sustainable development

Is *this* global warming?

GLOBAL TEMPERATURES



Each month, Earth Track updates the global averaged monthly satellite measurements of the Earth's temperature. *See page 4*

The Heartland Institute
19 South LaSalle #903
Chicago, IL 60603

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
BEAVER DAM, WI
PERMIT NO. 412

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Environment & Climate News
EDITORIAL OFFICES

The Heartland Institute

The Heartland Institute
19 South LaSalle, Suite 903
Chicago, Illinois 60603
312/377-4000 voice • 312/377-5000 fax
email think@heartland.org

Environment & Climate News is available on the Internet. Point your web browser to **http://www.heartland.org**.

Additional, regularly updated information on global climate change is available at **climatesearch.com**

PRESIDENT
Joseph L. Bast

PUBLISHER
Nikki Saret

EDITOR
Diane Carol Bast

MANAGING EDITOR
James M. Taylor

SCIENCE DIRECTOR
Jay Lehr Ph.D.

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
Kevin Fitzgerald
Jennifer Beranek

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Nikki Saret

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Latreece Vankinscott

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS
Brian Bishop, Wendell Cox, Paul K. Driessen
James D. Johnston, Jay Lehr, Nick Nichols
Randal O'Toole, S. Fred Singer
Jerry Taylor, Dan Thomas, Ronald Utt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Joseph Bast, Robert Buford
Paul Fisher, James Fitzgerald, Dan Hales
William Higginson, James L. Johnston
Ross Kaminsky, Roy E. Marden
David H. Padden, Frank Resnik
Leslie Rose, Robert Russell
John Skorburg, Herbert J. Walberg Ph.D.
Lee H. Walker, Tom Walton

Environment & Climate News is published 12 times per year by The Heartland Institute. Subscriptions are free to U.S residents and $24 per year for foreign residents. Order online at www.heartland.org. Heartland is a nonprofit and nonpartisan public policy research organization serving the nation's federal and state elected officials, journalists, Heartland Members, and other opinion leaders. Its activities are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

© 2002 The Heartland Institute. Nothing in this issue of **Environment & Climate News** should be construed as reflecting the views of The Heartland Institute, nor as an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any legislation.

Farming equals polluting, court says

Bush administration backs Ninth Circuit ruling that plowing is a kind of pollution

BY GARY BAISE

After receiving a battery of briefs seeking its review, the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide the important issue of whether the Clean Water Act (CWA) regulates the farming practice known as "deep ripping" or "deep plowing."

A number of farming associations, including the California Farm Bureau Federation and California Cattlemen's Association, have joined the litigation as interested parties, an indication of how central this issue is to farmers and farming practices.

The appeal to the Supreme Court was brought by Angelo Tsakopoulos, a California rancher and farmer. Tsakopoulos is asking the Court to overturn a Ninth Circuit decision holding that deep ripping his farm in an effort to turn pastureland into farmland for vineyards and orchards falls within the scope of CWA regulation.

The land contains seasonal hydrological features, such as vernal pools and swales, affected by the plowing. The Ninth Circuit held the plowing added a "pollutant" to the wetlands, constituting a regulated "discharge" under the CWA. The circuit court further held the deep plowing did not fall within the "normal farming activity" exemption from the CWA because the change from pastureland to farming "radically altered the hydrological regime of protected wetlands."

The Ninth Circuit is frequently reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court. By agreeing to hear the case, the Court signals it believes the circuit court may have overstepped its authority.

The U.S. Department of Justice filed briefs opposing Supreme Court review, to which Tsakopoulos responded. Although the Supreme Court has already decided to hear the case, the contents of those briefs are still worth noting, as they indicate the nature of the arguments to come.

Government: Plowing means polluting

The Department of Justice's arguments on behalf of the Bush administration comport with the key points of the Ninth Circuit's decision. The administration argues the Ninth Circuit was correct to find deep ripping, in the context of this case, to result in a discharge of a pollutant since the plowing is an activity in which the soil is "wrenched up, moved around, and re-deposited somewhere else." Such an activity, the DOJ states, results in the "addition" of a pollutant under the CWA.

The DOJ also agrees with the Ninth Circuit's holding that the addition does not constitute mere incidental fallback or an insignificant amount of re-deposits, which would exempt the activity from regulation.

> **"Tsakopoulos ... warns that 'since all farming—and all plowing—changes the land's hydrology, there is no farming activity that will not come within the Corps' permitting authority under the government's interpretation.'"**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW The full text of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision in *Borden Ranch Partnership; Angelo Tsakopoulos v. United States Army Corps of Engineers; United States Environmental Protection Agency*, is available through *PolicyBot* at **www.heartland.org**. Request document **#9401**.

Rather, the deep ripping in this case "constitutes environmental damage sufficient to constitute a regulable deposit."

Another issue in the case involves whether the plowing practice in question constitutes a "point source" of pollution under the CWA. Arguing that it does, the DOJ notes the bulldozers and tractors that pulled the metal plowing prongs through the earth fall within the Clean Water Act's definition of a point source, which includes earthmoving equipment.

The administration argues further that the normal farming exemption is inapplicable in this case because the plowing altered the hydrological regime of protected waters. Rather than the simple substitution of one crop for another, which would be a normal farming operation, the plowing here actually changed the landscape such that wetlands were converted to dry lands.

The method of assessing penalties is also an issue in this case. The DOJ and EPA would have penalties assessed per day for each violation; that is, for each pass of the ripper through a wetland. Tsakopoulos would have a penalty apply to each day of violation regardless of the number of passes.

Tsakopoulos responds

The counter-arguments in Tsakopoulos's reply brief seeking Supreme Court review are likely indicative of the arguments he will use once the case is fully briefed.

Tsakopoulos challenges the government's position that "sufficient environmental damage" be used as a test for CWA jurisdiction. The test, Tsakopoulos argues, is simply whether there has been an "addition" of a pollutant. He contends there has been no addition other than unregulated incidental fallback.

Tsakopoulos also objects to the notion that a plow can be a "point source" of pollution. Since plowing itself cannot be a point source, Tsakopoulos states, it makes no sense that tractors pulling plows—not acting like bulldozers—could be point sources.

As for the farming exception, Tsakopoulos's reply brief warns that "since all farming—and all plowing—changes the land's hydrology, there is no farming activity that will not come within the Corps' permitting authority under the government's interpretation."

The Bush administration claims to support agriculture, but its position in this case does not seem to support its rhetoric. To date, the policy people at the Department of Justice, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Agriculture have expressed no awareness of how a case like this undercuts the President's pro-agriculture statements.

Gary Baise is an attorney with the Washington, DC-based law firm of Baise and Miller PC.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Robert Bradley receives Julian Simon Award

The Simon Memorial Award was established in honor of the late Julian Simon, who died in early 1998 just four days before his 66th birthday.

Robert L. Bradley Jr., president of the Institute for Energy Research, was presented the Julian L. Simon Memorial Award by the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) on May 22.

The Simon Memorial Award was established in honor of the late Julian Simon, who died in early 1998 just four days before his 66th birthday. Bradley earned the 2002 Simon Award for his work on energy sustainability in the Simon tradition. His acceptance speech follows.

Energy realism, energy optimism

I am honored to receive the Julian Simon award tonight. My thanks go to the Simon family and the Competitive Enterprise Institute for having this annual award to recognize and encourage new contributions in the "sustainable development" field that Simon pioneered. My appreciation also goes out to a number of groups within the classical liberal "structure of production" that have supported my intellectual development over the last quarter century, and in particular the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University, the Cato Institute, and the Atlas Economic Research Foundation.

> "Energy is 'the master resource,' because energy is pervasive in industrial activity, and energy allows us to transform resources into more valuable goods and services."
>
> ROBERT L. BRADLEY JR., PRESIDENT
> INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY RESEARCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION

MAIL about the Institute for Energy Research, write Robert L. Bradley Jr., president, 6219 Olympia, Houston, TX 77057.

WWW For more information about the Competitive Enterprise Institute and its Julian Simon Award, visit the group's Web site at **www.cei.org.**

Simon's energy themes

Julian Simon was very interested in energy and energy-environmental issues. I have identified six of his themes in this area:

- Energy is "the master resource" because energy is pervasive in industrial activity, and energy allows us to transform resources into more valuable goods and services (such as turning salt water into drinking water, a very energy-intensive process).
- Natural resources originate from the mind, not the ground, and therefore are not depletable. Thus, energy can be best understood as a bottomless pyramid of increasing substitutability and supply—and not a "bell curve" with any particular hydrocarbon energy.
- The average person in market settings creates (transforms) more inanimate energy than he or she consumes.
- The average person in market settings improves the natural environment more than he or she despoils it.
- Anthropogenic (or man-made) climate change has benefits, not only costs, and human ingenuity can accentuate the positives and mitigate the negatives.
- Virtually every economic and environmental indicator of human welfare related to energy is positive when viewed over time, and these trends can continue indefinitely if the right institutional incentives can unleash the ultimate resource. And Julian Simon would bet on it!

The conclusion from the Simon worldview is that *the energy Malthusians are wrong*. The hydrocarbon-based energy economy is sustainable and becoming more so in market settings around the world.

I might add a prediction—that the hydrocarbon energy age could still be young, even quite young. The much-hyped emergence of a new renewable energy era by mid-century is less our energy future than our energy past when, indeed, renewables dominated the inanimate energy market.

The next energy period is most likely to be the *enhanced hydrocarbon era*, marked by a technological progression whereby a variety of hydrocarbon energies have become almost perfect substitutes for each other in cleaner and cheaper ways. The recent commercialization of oil sands and orimulsion is creating a whole new competitive field for crude oil. Uneconomic natural gas reserves can now be upgraded into super-clean oil products. Add this to new combustion technologies lowering emissions and innovations such as the hybrid (gas/electric) vehicles, and the renewable, hydrogen-based energy economy seems as remote today as it was decades ago.

Making progress

Progress has been made in the very contentious energy debate, thanks in part to the intellectual and marketing efforts of Julian Simon. Paul and Ann Ehrlich in their 1996 book, *Betrayal of Science and Reason*, admitted that "depleting" energies were not becoming scarcer and the air was growing cleaner. The Ehrlichs also stated global cooling was not the problem Stephen Schneider and others once thought. The problem now was officially global warming.

Yesterday, the high-profile energy debate was between Julian Simon and Paul Ehrlich. Today, the high-profile debate is between Bjorn Lomborg and John Holdren. Holdren is the eminent Harvard professor who is upset that he and his fellow "scientists" have lost valuable time by having to refute Dr. Lomborg's claims made in *The Skeptical Environmentalist*. (Check for yourself—http://www.sciam.com).

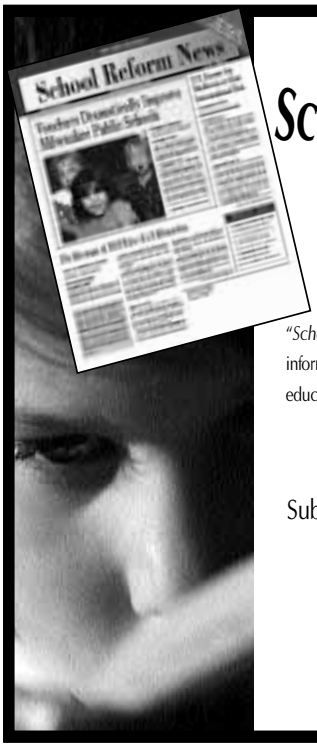
Holdren now says that inquiry about oil depletion is "asking the wrong question." He says that the debate is not about "running out of energy" but "running out of cheap energy" and "running out of environment." Say what? We are *not* running out of cheap energy and we are not running out of environment, according to the facts.

Holdren, who once advocated "de-developing" the United States to reduce energy usage, now says, "Affordable energy in ample quantities is the lifeblood of the industrial societies and a prerequisite for the economic development of the others." This is the high ground that must be seized with energy and energy-environmental policy. The energy-is-good view gives a new urgency to the views of Julian Simon and the *energy realist school*—those individuals and institutions that support affordable, plentiful, reliable energy for not only the energy-rich but also the 1.6 billion energy-poor.

Conclusion

Ideas have consequences, and facts do too. And facts are what Julian Simon always brought to the fore. The energy realists are winning the intellectual war with energy sustainability, whether or not the old-school depletionists or new-school climate alarmists realize it. New forms of hydrocarbon energies are sprouting up for the twenty-first century and far beyond, and the human influence on climate is simply not producing the crisis signs that the alarmists warn us about.

The political war concerning energy sustainability is another matter. Many battles remain, but with the legacy of Julian Simon and organizations such as the Competitive Enterprise Institute, I am confident that we can win the intellectual war and triumph in many more political battles than are lost. This is good news indeed given society's growing need for and expectations of the "master resource."



School Reform News

The national newspaper for school reformers

"*School Reform News* is a reliable, well-written source of information on the exploding movement to reconstruct our educational system."

Milton Friedman
Nobel laureate

Subscribe today for just $24 for 11 issues!

Sign up online at **www.heartland.org**, call 312.377.4000, or write to:

The Heartland Institute
19 South LaSalle, Suite 903
Chicago, IL 60603

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

West Nile death march heads west

DDT ban, anti-pesticide movement contribute to death toll

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

West Nile virus continues its death march across the United States, with 43 people confirmed dead and 954 made seriously ill this year alone.

The virus has blanketed the U.S., sparing no region. Since the virus first appeared in the United States in 1999, 57 people have died, bird deaths are in the thousands, and other species have been stricken as well.

> **"I find it interesting that we stopped using DDT because it was alleged to be killing birds. However, that was later disproved. Now, West Nile virus, which could be controlled by using DDT, is leaving dead birds in backyards around the country. Ironic."**
>
> DALE ANDERSON, PRESIDENT
> PENNSYLVANIA FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Just a few elderly deaths?

The inexorable march of West Nile has called into question national and local anti-pesticide policies. After suffering a widespread and deadly outbreak of West Nile in 1999, New York City embarked on a concerted pesticide spraying program that limited the city's death toll and ended the outbreak's status as the city's leading news story. However, anti-pesticide fears at the federal and local levels have enabled the virus to gain new momentum outside the Big Apple.

"These diseases only kill the old and people whose health is already poor," claims the New York Green Party in literature opposed to pesticide spraying. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on August 8 that the average age of persons infected with West Nile this year is 55.

Moreover, West Nile is just one of many deadly diseases carried by American mosquitoes. For example, a 12-year-old Wisconsin boy died of mosquito-borne encephalitis in early August. Malaria and other previously defeated diseases are returning in the absence of DDT spraying.

"About 1,200 cases of malaria are diagnosed in the U.S. each year," noted Henry Miller, a fellow at the Hoover Institution, "and it won't be long until West Nile virus infections far exceed that level."

Absence of DDT deadly

"It's time to bring back the insecticide DDT," said Steven Milloy, adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute and author of the book *Junk Science Judo: Self-defense Against Scares and Scams*.

During World War II, American scientists adapted a Swiss moth-killing chemical into the single most effective weapon ever invented in the war against mosquitoes. DDT saved millions of lives worldwide and won its inventor a Nobel Prize.

E. John Beidler, mosquito control director in Indian River County, Florida since 1955, recounted how effective DDT was in eliminating the deadly insects. As a high school student in 1943, Beidler was working in a Florida Army lab by the mosquito-infested Banana River where DDT was being tested. There were so many mosquitoes in the air that lab workers' tan mesh belts were transformed into "black fuzzy belts" by all the swarming insects. Less than an hour after aerial DDT spraying, there were "no mosquitoes at all. It was like magic."

In the 1960s and 1970s, however, public relations campaigns conducted by such groups as the World Wildlife Fund succeeded in scapegoating DDT for such alleged harms as weakened egg shells and declining bird populations. Since then, those allegations have been discredited by scientific research. An EPA administrative law judge acknowledged the sound science shortly before the agency nevertheless gave in to special-interest pressure and banned DDT in the early 1970s.

"DDT is not a carcinogenic hazard to man," concluded the judge after seven months of hearings and 9,000 pages of testimony. "DDT is not a mutagenic or teratogenic hazard to man. ... The use of DDT under the regulations involved here does not have a deleterious effect on freshwater fish, estuarine organisms, wild birds or other wildlife."

The EPA judge's conclusions followed directly on the heels of a report by the National Academy of Sciences that concluded: "To only a few chemicals does man owe as great a debt as to DDT. ... [I]n a little more than two decades, DDT has prevented 500 million deaths due to malaria that otherwise would have been inevitable."

NILE continued on next page

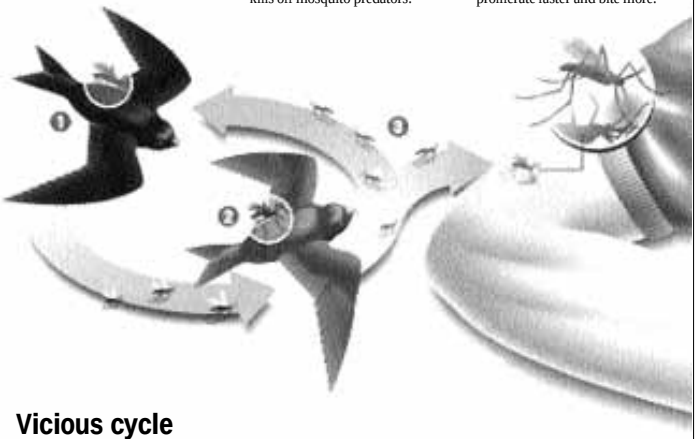
Mercury rising: droughts and fevers

Cycles of extreme weather may have helped the spread of West Nile virus in North America by boosting the mosquito population.

Mild winter
More mosquitoes than usual survive the winter in sewers, gutters, and other pools of still water.

Dry spring
Drought causes birds to converge on dwindling water supplies, which are often home to mosquitoes. It also kills off mosquito predators.

Hot summer
Once mosquitoes acquire the virus, warmer air prompts it to mature rapidly. The heat also causes mosquitoes to proliferate faster and bite more.



Vicious cycle

1. Infected mosquitoes bite uninfected birds and pass on the virus.
2. The now infected birds pass the virus on to uninfected mosquitoes.
3. The growing army of infected mosquitoes fans out to transmit the virus to more birds, and to humans.

Source: Scientific American

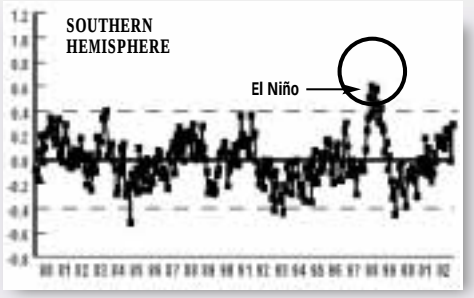
EARTH TRACK

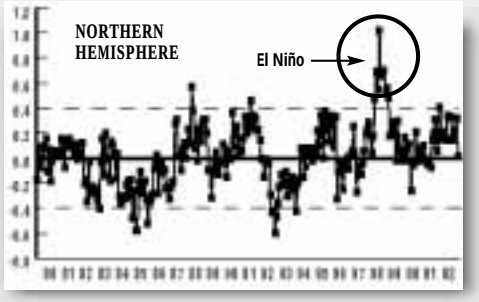
AUGUST 2002

The global average temperature for August, shown on page 1, was 0.15˚C above normal. The Southern Hemisphere's temperature departure, shown below, was 0.29˚C above normal; the Northern Hemisphere's, below right, was 0.02˚C above normal.

Each month, Earth Track *updates the global averaged monthly satellite measurements of the Earth's temperature. These numbers are important because they are real—not projections, forecasts, or guesses.*

Global satellite measurements are made from a series of orbiting platforms that sense the average temperature in various atmospheric layers. Here, we present the lowest level, which climate models say should be warming. The satellite measurements are considered accurate to within 0.01°C.





The data used to create these graphs can be found on the Internet at *http://vortex.nsstc.uah.edu/data/msu/t2lt/tltglhmam_5.0.*

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

West Nile just the beginning

The recent arrival of West Nile virus will not be the last, nor the deadliest, of mosquito-borne diseases to invade the United States and attack American citizens, scientists warn. In fact, West Nile is merely a wake-up call for what we will confront in future years if we continue to refrain from controlling mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes are the most deadly animal known to man, says Jonathan Day, mosquito scientist at the University of Florida Medical Entomology Lab in Vero Beach. Mosquitoes kill more people in five minutes than sharks do all year. And what makes mosquitoes so deadly is the fact that they carry such a wide variety of deadly diseases. The only way to stop mosquito-borne diseases, argues Day, is to kill mosquitoes.

Day noted that a single wave of mosquito-borne encephalitis in the American Midwest killed 95 people and infected more than 3,000 in 1975. And even that pales in comparison to diseases that were wiped out in America by DDT but still infect much of the globe.

In 1793, an outbreak of yellow fever killed 10 percent of the population of Philadelphia—5,500 out of 55,000 people. Yellow fever killed another 20,000 people in New Orleans in 1853, and still another 20,000 people there during an 1878 epidemic.

"Mosquitoes kill more people in five minutes than sharks do all year."

During the four years of the American Civil War, 10,000 Union soldiers died from malaria: five times as many as died during the war's deadliest battle.

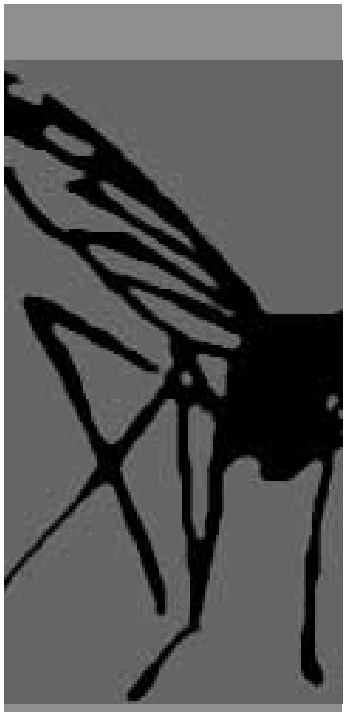
Centuries later, malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases are far from conquered. "We're losing 2.7 million people each year, mainly in Africa, as a function of malaria," noted Andrew Spielman, medical entomologist at Harvard School of Public Health.

Day and other mosquito experts warn that malaria, yellow fever, West Nile, and other diseases already seen in America are only the first wave of diseases likely to strike us and our children by virtue of mosquitoes. Other mosquito-borne diseases, some more deadly than West Nile, already afflict other portions of the globe and are likely to reach America at some point in the future.

Mosquito experts are particularly concerned about the following:

- Japanese encephalitis—the leading cause of viral encephalitis in Asia. It kills roughly 4,000 people every year.
- Rift Valley fever—similar to West Nile in both its African origins and its likelihood of reaching the United States. However, Rift Valley fever is more deadly, and there is no vaccine.
- Ross River fever—which has infected thousands in Australia. It causes lethargy that often lasts for years. It, too, has no vaccine.

Unless federal, state, and local governments act soon to unleash life-saving mosquito spraying efforts, scientists warn we may someday yearn for the days when we "only" had to worry about West Nile virus.



"To only a few chemicals does man owe as great a debt as to DDT. ... [I]n a little more than two decades, DDT has prevented 500 million deaths due to malaria that otherwise would have been inevitable."

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

NILE continued from page 4

Although the use of DDT effectively eliminated malaria in America and other developed countries before falling victim to environmental activist groups, the children of Third World countries have not been so lucky. With DDT use all but outlawed by environmental activist groups, 1 in every 20 children die from malaria in sub-Sahara Africa, according to Milloy.

"Contrary to the environmentalist view, public health campaigns that use insecticides against diseases have a remarkable record of public safety and a remarkable record of protecting humans from insect-borne diseases," agreed Dr. Donald Roberts, professor of tropical public health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW Steven Milloy's book, *Junk Science Judo: Self-defense Against Scares and Scams*, is available through Amazon.com at **http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1930865120/theheartlandinst.**

"The primary goal at the onset of mosquito-borne disease epidemics is to eliminate the infective mosquitoes as quickly as possible," researchers at the National Institute of Medicine, an affiliate of the National Academy of Sciences, noted in a 1992 report. "Transmission can only be stopped by the effective application of a pesticide that kills adult mosquitoes," they explained.

Chemophobia costing lives

However, pressure from anti-pesticide activists has curtailed use of the very weapons most effective at preventing the mosquito-caused deaths of humans, birds, and other animals.

"The practices of environmental advocacy groups are seriously degrading public health capabilities in the United States. Our public health threats are real, and growing," said Roberts.

"In fact," observed Angela Logomasini, director of risk and environmental policy at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, "many public officials decide not to spray rather than face criticism from activists. For example, shortly after discovering West Nile-infected mosquitoes in East Meadow and Hempstead, New York in 2001, local health officials there followed the antispray advice of local activists. 'We believe the risk of infection for residents remains quite low,' Nassau County's Health commissioner told the press in early August 2001. But apparently, the risk was not low enough for East Meadow residents Adeline Bisignano and Karl Fink. Both became ill with the virus at the end of that same month and died the following November."

The Long Island communities of East Meadow and Hempstead are not alone in their life-taking indifference to pesticides. As Logomasini noted, "Public officials around the country continue to follow the antispray agenda. 'It's not a serious problem,' Darrell Williamson, former public works director in Alexandria, Louisiana, told the local paper at the end of July, explaining why the city does not have a mosquito-control program. It was just days later that public officials reported the seven deaths and a hundred illnesses in Louisiana, leading the governor to declare a state of emergency. Louisiana's state epidemiologist told the press he would not be surprised if the number of cases rises into the hundreds this year."

DDT a long-term solution

Communities such as New York City that have engaged in aggressive spraying programs have temporarily gained the upper hand on mosquitoes and West Nile virus. However, in the absence of DDT, even these programs are less effective than they could be.

"Currently used pesticides, such as malathion, resmethrin, and sumithrin, can be effective in killing mosquitoes but are significantly limited since they don't persist in the environment after spraying," observed Milloy. "DDT does. DDT lingers longer and so is more effective in mosquito control."

Nevertheless, Milloy emphasized, the amount of DDT that lingers after spraying is only significant enough to harm mosquitoes—not non-target species.

"There's never been any credible evidence that the low levels of DDT residue in our bodies and the environment have caused any harm," Milloy noted. "Even if concern exists over DDT residue persisting in the environment, limiting DDT use solely to mosquito control would ensure that any such buildup would be dramatically lower than in the past."

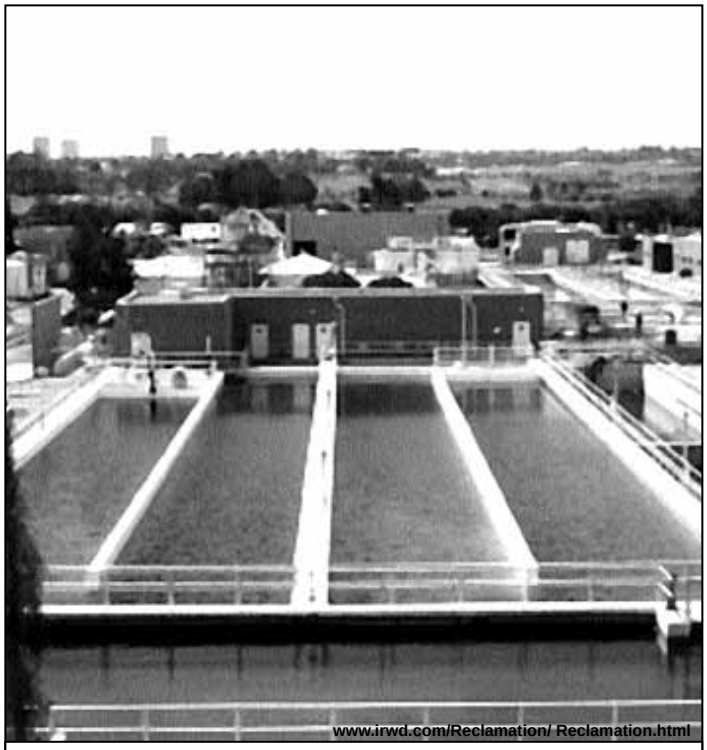
That's because DDT use would be more efficiently targeted in future usage. "At the time EPA banned DDT," said Milloy, "approximately 12 million pounds of the insecticide were used annually. But almost 99 percent of that amount was used agriculturally to protect cotton, soybean, and peanut crops. Only about 159,000 pounds—a little more than 1 percent of the 12 million pounds—was used for other reasons, including insect control."

Observed Pennsylvania Forest Industry Association President Dale Anderson, "I find it interesting that we stopped using DDT because it was alleged to be killing birds. However, that was later disproved. Now, West Nile virus, which could be controlled by using DDT, is leaving dead birds in backyards around the country. Ironic."

"Judicious use of DDT won't harm people or the environment," added Milloy. "It will, however, kill mosquitoes—which is better than mosquitoes killing us."

James M. Taylor is managing editor of Environment & Climate News.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED



Wastewater collected within Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is treated at the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant using advanced, or tertiary, treatment with chlorine. The end result is a high quality water that earned IRWD the first unrestricted use permit issued in the state. This permit allows the reclaimed water to be used for virtually everything but drinking.

IRWD's philosophy is that water is too valuable to be used just once. Reclaimed water now makes up 20 percent of IRWD's total water supply, reducing the need to import expensive water and helping to keep water rates low. Eighty percent of all business and community (parks, school grounds, etc.) landscaping in the District is irrigated with reclaimed water.

Anti-chlorine activists hope politics will trump science

Senate Bill 1602 would force industry to abandon chlorine even as science vindicates its safety

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

Attempting to avoid debate on one of the most controversial bills introduced this year, a group of U.S. senators is proposing severe restrictions on chlorine in the name of "homeland security."

Under Senate Bill 1602, passed on July 25 by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the Environmental Protection Agency would be given authority to force American industries to severely restrict or completely eliminate their use of chlorine and similar chemicals. Many senators who support the bill want to attach it to legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security.

Chlorine vital in disease prevention

Chlorine is widely used by industries and individual citizens alike due to its efficiency at killing health-threatening bacteria. Chlorine is the primary sanitizer of public drinking water and is essential in fighting disease-causing bacteria in public and private swimming pools. However, the benefits of chlorine extend well beyond water-related uses.

According to Angela Logomasini, director of risk and environmental policy at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, "the use of chlorine is one of the greatest public health achievements in history, saving millions of lives each year.

"Chlorine doesn't only kill pathogens in our drinking water;" she notes. "We use it to make 80 percent of our pharmaceuticals, disinfect medical equipment, keep our hospitals sanitary, kill bacteria on our produce, and disinfect numerous other things that could otherwise transmit deadly diseases."

Nevertheless, chlorine has been a longstanding target of Greenpeace and other groups opposed to any use of man-made chemicals. "There are no known uses for chlorine which we regard as safe," said Greenpeace's Joe Thornton in a 1993 issue of *Science* magazine.

Support Environment & Climate News! Become a Heartland member and donor.

Environment & Climate News is published by The Heartland Institute, an independent nonprofit organization founded in 1984. Contributions are tax deductible under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Membership	Additional Contribution	
❑ $29	❑ $1,000	❑ $100
❑ $49	❑ $500	❑ $50
Subscription	❑ $250	❑ $25
❑ $24	❑ Other _____	

❑ My check in the amount of $_____ is enclosed.

❑ Charge $ _____ to my ❑ Visa ❑ MC ❑ Am Ex

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Title•Company _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____

City•State•Zip _____

❑ *Please send me additional information about The Heartland Institute.* ❑ *Please send me information about advertising in E&CN.*

Please return form to The Heartland Institute, 19 South LaSalle Street #903, Chicago, Illinois 60603; fax 312•377•5000.

ECN10/02

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Studies show chemicals safe

The chlorine debate now underway in the Senate is just the latest example of how anti-chemical environmental groups use politics to respond to scientific research.

On August 11, 2002, the *New York Times* reported the results of an $8 million study investigating alleged links between chlorine and other chemicals and slightly elevated breast cancer rates among women on Long Island. Dr. Deborah Winn and the National Cancer Institute studied the Long Island environment and women living on Long Island after earlier studies showed breast cancer rates in Nassau and Suffolk counties were roughly 3 percent higher than the national average. Anti-chemical groups had asserted the higher breast cancer rates were due to chlorine and other chemicals, and the groups lobbied hard for the funding of the National Cancer Institute study.

> **"The chlorine debate now underway in the Senate is just the latest example of how anti-chemical environmental groups use politics to respond to scientific research. ... Unable to prevail in the laboratory, anti-chemical groups are seeking to prevail in the U.S. Senate."**

The results of the study? Not only was there no link found between cancer rates and the scapegoated chemicals, but the study took the further step of completely exonerating chemicals as a cause of the area's elevated cancer rate. The data, according to Winn, "were very, very conclusive."

Winn's National Cancer Institute study reported results consistent with those of numerous previous studies. For example, a 1997 study, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, analyzed breast cancer rates among more than 32,000 nurses. The study found no evidence that exposure to chemicals such as DDT and PCBs increases a person's cancer risk.

In 1998, a similar study headed by Dr. David Hunter, director of the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention, analyzed data from five separate studies of more than 1,600 women. The results, published in *The Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, showed no connection between exposure to chemicals and breast cancer rates.

"I think we have the answers for these chemicals," concluded Hunter in dismissing claims that chemical exposure leads to cancer.

Politics vs. science

"I refuse to accept the fact that they didn't find anything," protested Geri Barish, president of a Long Island anti-chemical group called 1 in 9: The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition. "We need to do a lot more studies."

Or pass a lot more bills. Unable to prevail in the laboratory, anti-chemical groups are seeking to prevail in the U.S. Senate.

SB 1602, sponsored by Senator Jon Corzine (D-New Jersey), would direct EPA to force facilities to replace chlorine and other chemicals with "inherently safer technology." The bill would allow EPA to determine just what constitutes "inherently safer technology." And, as CEI's Logomasini observes, "EPA will likely be pressured by Greenpeace and similar groups to define inherently safer as 'chlorine free' or at least 'severely reduced chlorine use.'" This, of course, despite the findings of the National Cancer Institute study, the *New England Journal of Medicine* study, the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention study, and a plethora of other studies that have examined the issue. Under SB 1602, politics would triumph over science.

"That's what happens when science is made subservient to policy and politics, especially when millions of dollars in financing is also at stake," observed Dr. Gilbert Ross, medical director for the American Council on Science and Health. "They had been told so often by environmental activists that there must be some relation between breast cancer rates here and one or another chemical pollutant that it became received wisdom; no doubters were tolerated."

"Why keep wasting tax money on these studies—money that could be put to much more effective use in public health areas crying out for financing?" asked Ross.

"There comes a point after so many studies are done that it becomes less productive to continue that line of work," agreed Dr. Barbara Hulka, emeritus professor of epidemiology at the University of North Carolina.

However, money lost to redundant studies and money lost in enforcing unnecessary anti-chemical laws are only the tip of the iceberg of potential harms, according to Logomasini.

"Residents in Peru learned about such risks in 1991," she notes. "Inadequate chlorination has been cited in scientific literature as a key contributor in a cholera epidemic that started in Peru and spread throughout the hemisphere, leading to 533,000 cases of cholera and 4,700 deaths."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW the full text of SB 1602 is available on the Internet at the Library of Congress's Thomas Web site, **http://thomas.loc.gov/**.

"Similar recommendations by environmental activists that we switch to allegedly safer products have already created serious problems," she adds. "For example, Gina Kolata, a science reporter for the *New York Times*, recently documented the dangers created by an environmental campaign that pushed hospitals to eliminate products using mercury. She reported that alternative 'mercury-free' blood-pressure equipment sometimes produces terribly wrong readings, leading doctors to administer improper medication. In one case, the wrong medication led a woman to have a stroke."

So what will be the end result in this latest round of politics vs. science? Keep an eye on the Homeland Security Bill, of all things, for a revelation of this year's winner.

James M. Taylor is managing editor of Environment & Climate News.

When in California, don't eat the whole wheat bread

"All natural" bread contains natural carcinogens, prompting ACSH lawsuit

Long before New Jersey Democrat Jon Corzine sponsored Senate Bill 1602, the California legislature passed its own bill demonizing chemical science.

Proposition 65, enacted in 1986, requires all products to bear a warning label if they contain a chemical known to cause cancer in laboratory animals. Moreover, Proposition 65 authorizes "watchdog" suits by which private citizens or organizations can recover up to $3,000 per day for each day a manufacturer violates its labeling obligations.

Similar to SB 1602, Proposition 65 places politics, junk science, and scaremongering ahead of sound science. After all, animal tests have only a limited ability to predict human cancer susceptibility. Many chemicals that cause cancer in rats or other animals are perfectly safe for humans. Moreover, cancer links in laboratory animals frequently require chemical doses far in excess of what animals or humans would ever be exposed to outside the laboratory.

"It's the dose that makes the poison," explains Jeff Stier of the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH). He calls that the number one rule of toxicology.

What's good for the goose ...

To illustrate its point, ACSH has announced a "watchdog" suit of its own. The Council is suing Whole Foods Market for failing to place cancer warning labels on its Whole Wheat Farm Bread. Whole Foods Market is a chain that prides itself on selling only products that do not contain synthetic chemicals. Nevertheless, according to ACSH, Whole Wheat Farm Bread contains small amounts of acrylamide, a naturally occurring chemical that causes cancer in laboratory rats.

While Stier doubts Whole Wheat Farm Bread causes cancer in humans, the suit illustrates the hoops through which producers of perfectly safe products must jump to sell their wares in California. Usually it is man-made chemicals singled out for harassment. However, what's good for the goose is good for the gander, says ACSH.

"The public should be informed that a risk to health depends on both the degree of hazard as well as the degree of exposure to any potentially toxic substance," explained ACSH President Dr. Elizabeth Whelan. "Brief exposures are extremely unlikely to pose a real health risk. Prop 65 masks this fact by its failure to assess and communicate risk reasonably."

> **"[The American Council on Science and Health] is suing Whole Foods Market for failing to place cancer warning labels on its Whole Wheat Farm Bread ... [which] contains small amounts of acrylamide, a naturally occurring chemical that causes cancer in laboratory rats."**

Whole Foods Market spokesperson Kate Lowery agrees with ACSH that Proposition 65 is misguided.

"We agree with the absurdity of what [ACSH is] trying to propose in their news release," said Lowery. "We obviously don't agree with them using our name."

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Business to Congress: Stop stalling on NSR reform

AUGUST 20, 2002

Editor's note: The following letter was sent on August 20 to every member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The effort was spearheaded by the National Association of Manufacturers and supported by more than three dozen business organizations whose names appear at the end of the letter.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE:

Recently, members of the House and Senate have sent letters to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Whitman expressing concern about the Administration's recommendations to modify the Clean Air Act's New Source Review (NSR) program. We disagree with these letters' characterization of the environmental impact of the NSR reform package. We believe that the proposed changes to the NSR program, in fact, will result in cleaner air and increased energy efficiency.

EPA has recommended changes to the NSR program in two parts. The first will be issued as a *proposed* rule, which is expected to clarify definitions for "routine repair and replacement" among other things. This process will go through the formal rulemaking process, including full public notice and comment and, by its very nature, will allow for substantial analysis and a full debate of the issues before the rule takes effect.

The second set of changes will be issued in a *final* rule. This rule focuses on the "emissions measurement" policy raised in the letter. This rule would also provide incentives for industry to undertake pollution control and prevention projects. These proposed changes have been under consideration by EPA since 1996 and have already been subject to the full public comment and review procedures.

The expected changes on emissions measurement will actually encourage reductions in pollution from manufacturing and other industrial facilities. The rule modifies cumbersome regulations, thereby allowing facilities to install more energy/cost efficient and less polluting technology. Without this rule change, facilities will continue to operate within their permitted levels, but in a less efficient manner. Under no circumstance do the proposed changes allow emissions from a facility to exceed the levels set forth in their clean air permits.

We are concerned that there appears to be an effort to stall the NSR reform process despite wide agreement that the current program is seriously flawed. A delay at this point in the process would be counterproductive because it would continue to discourage facilities from making modifications and undertaking projects that would reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency. Moreover, these capital-intensive projects would be further delayed at a time when every investment decision is critical to the nation's economic recovery.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you and your staff in the near future.

SINCERELY,

- *Adhesive and Sealant Council*
- *Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers*
- *American Architectural Manufacturers Association*
- *American Boiler Manufacturers Association*
- *American Chemistry Council*
- *American Coke and Coal Chemicals Institute*
- *American Forest & Paper Association*
- *American Gas Association*
- *American Iron & Steel Institute*
- *American Petroleum Institute*
- *Association of Equipment Manufacturers*
- *BIFMA International*
- *Ceramics Manufacturers Association*
- *Composites Fabricators Association*
- *Cookware Manufacturers Association*
- *Copper and Brass Fabricators Council, Inc.*
- *Council of Industrial Boiler Owners*
- *Edison Electric Institute*
- *Forging Industry Association*
- *Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association*
- *Industrial Energy Consumers of America*
- *International Sign Association*
- *IPC - The Association Connecting Electronic Industries*
- *Metal Treating Institute*
- *National Association of Manufacturers*
- *National Lime Association*
- *National Mining Association*
- *National Oilseed Processors Association*
- *National Petrochemical & Refiners Association*
- *National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association*
- *Non-Ferrous Founders' Society*
- *Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce & Industry*
- *Portland Cement Association*
- *Precision Machined Products Association*
- *Pressure Sensitive Tape Council*
- *Printing Industries of America, Inc.*
- *Salt Institute*
- *Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorators*
- *The Adhesive and Sealant Council, Inc.*
- *The Carpet and Rug Institute*
- *The Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc.*
- *The Ohio Manufacturers' Association*
- *The Refractories Institute*
- *U.S. Chamber of Commerce*

Mining rights under legal attack

BY WILLIAM PERRY PENDLEY

In 1872, Congress enacted the General Mining Law, allowing miners to enter onto federal land, locate valuable mineral deposits, and develop those minerals. Once a miner's claim was staked, it was inviolate against all other claims, except those asserted by the federal government itself, which could challenge the validity of a miner's claim at any time.

Miners were required to perform annual assessment work, or else the land was open to relocation by rival claimants as if no prior claim existed. If the original claimant resumed work before such relocation, the claim was preserved. Often called the "resumption doctrine," this is the "statutory right to resume work."

While the "right to resume work" protected claims against rival miners, did it apply to challenges asserted by the United States? In 1930, the United States told the U.S. Supreme Court it did not: Claims were forfeited if a miner failed to perform assessment work, even if the miner resumed work before a challenge by the United States. The Supreme Court unanimously rejected that argument, emphasizing: "[I]t is ... clear that [a miner] maintains his claim ... by a resumption of work. ... Such resumption does not restore a lost estate; it preserves an existing estate."

Thereafter, the United States challenged claims for lack of assessment work only during a lapse in the work; but the Supreme Court later rejected that too, ruling there was no authority for it. In 1970, the Supreme Court backtracked slightly: the United States did have that authority. But the Court left its 1930 ruling in place: A miner maintained his claim if he resumed work before the United States challenged his claim.

Not surprisingly, given the frequent and consistent rulings of the Supreme Court affirming the rights of a miner to "preserve an existing [claim]" by resuming assessment work, the United States took the view, from 1930 on, that claims were invalid only if the federal government instituted its challenge during a lapse in assessment work.

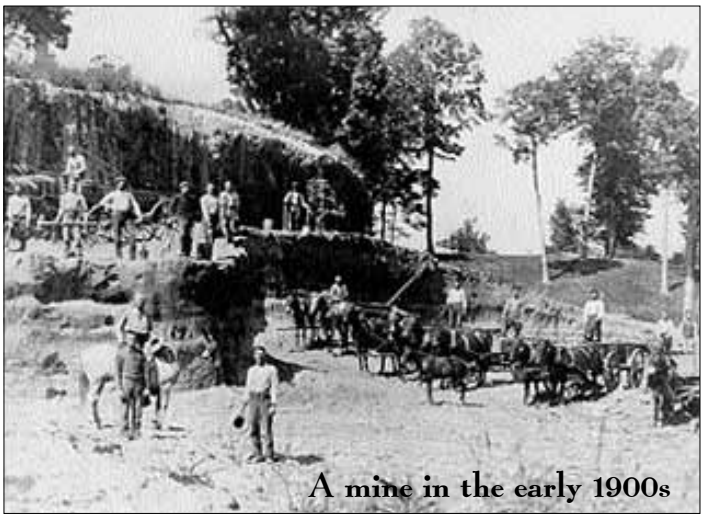
Then, in 1993—the first year of the first term of President Bill Clinton—the federal government reversed 63 years of official policy and rejected the rulings of the Supreme Court. The statutory right to resume work was dead; in its place was a regulation that automatically voided claims upon a lapse in assessment work.

> **"President George W. Bush seems bent on preserving his predecessor's ill-considered approach to mining law."**

No end to the controversy

The issue has reared its head again ... and President George W. Bush seems bent on preserving his predecessor's ill-considered approach to mining law.

In 1917, four oil shale claims were located on 520 acres in Uintah County, Utah. In March 1989, the owner of the claims, Cliffs Synfuel Corporation, filed an application for title (patent) to those claims. In October 1992, the United States said Cliffs had complied with federal law and was entitled to a certificate ending its duty to perform assessment work.



A mine in the early 1900s

But in 1996, the federal government declared the claims null and void because, during the 75 years the claims were held, there had been a lapse in assessment work—a lapse the federal government had never challenged. A federal district court reinstated the claims, holding "the Supreme Court knows how to say a statute is invalid;" because it did not declare the statutory right to resume work invalid, that provision was still alive.

The Bush administration appealed the decision to the Tenth Circuit. On May 6, 2002, lawyers from Bush's Justice Department argued that 63 years of interpreting the mining law were irrelevant and the Supreme Court's decisions, which had bound the federal government for nine presidencies, were wrong. A three-judge circuit court panel, deferring to the federal government's expertise, agreed: the claims were null and void.

Cliffs has asked the entire Tenth Circuit to rehear the case and will petition the Supreme Court if the Tenth Circuit fails to correct its error.

The Bush administration defends its position as an effort to restore stability and steadfastness to a Justice Department that gained a reputation for scandal and schizophrenia during the Clinton years. But which is more worthy of Bush's embrace: three Supreme Court rulings and the official policy of nine presidents spanning more than six decades, or a dubious regulation adopted by his anti-mining predecessor?

William Perry Pendley is president and chief legal officer of the Mountain States Legal Foundation.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

LOGGING:

An essential part of sustainable forestry

BY HAL SALWASSER

Logging. It was once what Oregon was all about. Now, it's become almost a curse word in this land of Douglas firs and Ponderosa pines.

As I travel the state, I see mill after mill closed. I see businesses in rural communities shuttered. I see long-revered public agencies bashed around like a punching bag. I see recently harvested lands awash in a sea of vigorous, growing young trees. I also see federal forests at high risk of fire, insects, disease, or water stress—desperately in need of thinning to restore their health.

One-fourth the Oregon economy

While some would have us put our axes and saws away, worldwide demand for paper, furniture, packaging, and building materials is unstoppable. While our state economy slips and stumbles, money and jobs are locked up in the sweet-scented wood of our forests. It's a bank account we've blindly turned our backs on.

Dot coms and high-tech have grabbed the headlines lately, but forest products still represent about one-fourth of Oregon's economy. Without logging, there would be no forest industry. Without a forest industry, Oregon would be a much different place: more rural unemployment, a less-diverse economy, and private forests leveled for other uses. And, just as tragic, we couldn't manage the forests to keep them healthy.

Global demand for wood products has increased 40 percent since 1960; it's expected to grow another 66 percent by mid-century. Each year we Americans use one-third of all the wood that goes into paper, packaging, furniture, and building materials. Yet we produce only one-fourth of the world's supply.

We let fires rip through our western forests and refuse loggers entry to thin small trees or harvest charred trees to restore the land. Blindly, we import wood from countries paying lower wages and tolerating environmental abuses long absent from American forests. Right now, the U.S. imports about one-third of its softwood lumber from Canadian forests. Some of those forests require five to 10 times the acres cut to produce the same amount of wood as one acre of coastal Douglas fir.

Some Oregonians would have us reduce the amount of wood we use and turn to other materials, such as steel, concrete, and plastics. They must not care about water, energy use, and pollution, because producing these non-wood materials consumes up to 10 times the water and energy—read carbon dioxide—than is consumed by producing a unit of finished wood. And the minerals and petroleum used to make these products are non-renewable—unlike trees.

Obviously, you don't get wood without cutting a tree. And you can't sustain the forests without carefully considering the tools of modern forestry: genetically superior trees, reforestation, and logging. Logging is just one part—but an essential part—of sustainable forestry.

Logging for forest health

I am a wildlife biologist by training. I've been in the natural resources profession for 30 years. I chose this work because I wanted to improve forest management for cleaner water, healthier fish and wildlife—what some call biodiversity. I've visited forests in every state in the U.S. and in Canada, Sweden, Mexico, and India. I can tell you the world—and Oregon—needs good forest management and conservation that balances logging with protecting and restoring diverse and healthy environments.

Oregon's forests are the most productive in the world. Our coastal woods grow trees five to 10 times better than the average of forests worldwide. Our firs and pines are of premium quality for wood products. Oregon's logging techniques result in the cleanest water coming from any land use in the state.

We also have some of the finest and largest areas of old forests in the nation, home to many plants and animals that would exist in far less abundance were those old forests to disappear—spotted owls, pine martens, and flying squirrels. But the continual spark of catastrophic fire seasons loudly tells us there are just too many trees in many western forests. This over-abundance puts many of our old, natural forests in great danger of bugs and fires.

> **"[W]e import wood from countries paying lower wages and tolerating environmental abuses long absent from American forests."**

Yes, I must use that "curse word" again—but please don't jump to conclusions. It will take logging to reduce fire hazards and restore health to these forests. I'm not suggesting we log the magnificent old trees, or log every bit of forest, or log just for the biggest yield. I'm talking about thinning small to medium-sized trees in the most fire-prone forests to protect the largest and oldest trees and return fire to its more natural role. Small, more frequent fires—not incredible explosions.

Just two weeks ago I stood near a giant sugar pine at the Prospect Ranger Station east of Medford. I listened as the ranger told me that, in addition to fire risks, 10 percent of these precious trees are dying. The culprit? Overcrowding from younger trees drinking in all the water. He's trying to get some thinning underway, but process and protest are like twin barricades. Nature will not let us protect these forests through paralyzing process, neglect, or timidity. Selective logging is an essential tool.

Calling all thoughtful people

Isn't there a way for thoughtful people who care deeply about the environment to find common ground with those trying to meet people's daily needs for food, fiber, and water? Isn't there a place for both?

Logging should not be a curse word in Oregon, of all places, where the thud of the axe and grind of the saw literally built the state. The global appetite for wood and Oregon's lush and productive forests are, like the sapling to the old growth, related. Our pressing needs to reduce fire risks and Oregon's talented loggers, foresters, and mill workers are related. They watch and wait as the state's economy slides.

Our federal and state agencies have a cohesive plan for taking care of forests at risk of fire. Let's put it in action and tackle the hard work of restoring our forests using low-impact, selective logging and thinning to produce valuable renewable resources. At the same time, we'll restore the family-wage jobs that helped build this place we love.

Hal Salwasser is dean of the College of Forestry and director of the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory at Oregon State University. He served 22 years with the U.S. Forest Service, including stints as regional forester in the Northern Rockies and for six years in Washington, DC as Deputy Director of Wildlife and Fisheries and Director of New Perspectives. This article first appeared in The Oregonian.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

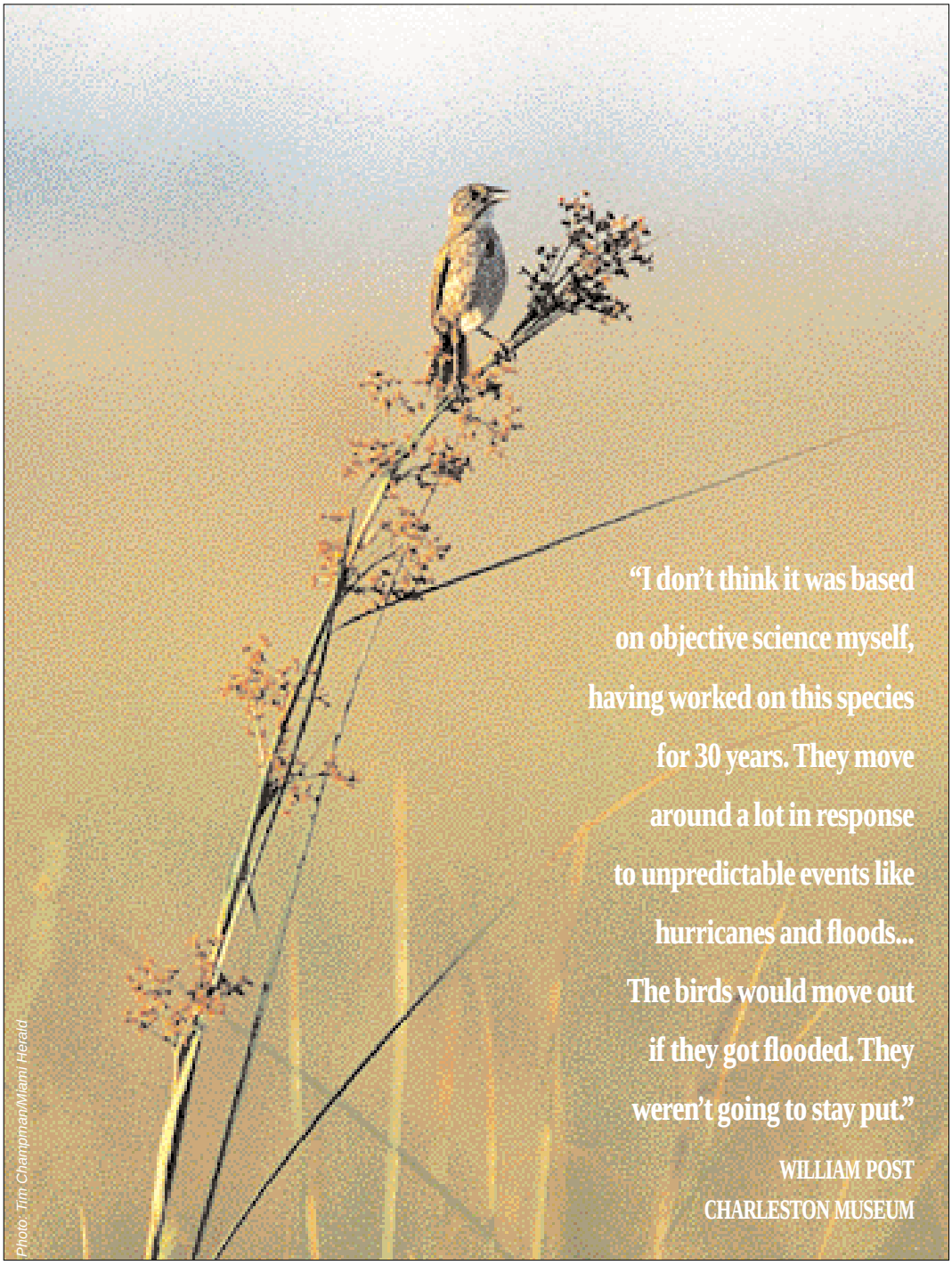

"I don't think it was based on objective science myself, having worked on this species for 30 years. They move around a lot in response to unpredictable events like hurricanes and floods... The birds would move out if they got flooded. They weren't going to stay put."
WILLIAM POST
CHARLESTON MUSEUM

Photo: Tim Chapman/Miami Herald

SAWGRASS continued from page 1

flooding us and trying to take our property."

The Corps has taken steps toward condemning 100 homes in and around the Everglades, claiming the government agency needs the land as a "buffer zone" for its projects. For land it can't acquire by condemnation, artificial flooding is serving the Corps' purpose. Locals claim ulterior motives are to blame.

The flooding occurs when the Corps artificially holds back water during nesting season in areas inhabited by the sparrow. Holding back water in some areas results in flooding in other areas. Coincidentally—or not—homes the Corps would like to acquire are frequent flooding victims.

Flooding unnecessary

The problem, according to scientists and local citizens, is that such artificial water management is not needed to protect the sparrows.

William Post, curator of ornithology at the Charleston Museum and a leading sparrow expert, points out the Cape Sable seaside sparrow has an extensive habitat range, with some living as much as 400 miles from the Everglades.

"I don't think it was based on objective science myself, having worked on this species for 30 years," said Post. "They move around a lot in response to unpredictable events like hurricanes and floods. There's no point in flooding tens of thousands of acres of ground just to save a few birds on the west side. The birds would move out if they got flooded. They weren't going to stay put."

Moreover, condemning and flooding land to protect birds is explicitly forbidden under federal law, says Virginia Albrecht, a lawyer who is representing area homeowners.

When Congress approved the Everglades restoration program in 1989, it determined the Corps of Engineers should build a levy to protect communities, rather than raise the water table to flood them out.

"The Corps is doing the opposite. Instead of protecting them, they are flooding them," asserted Albrecht. "And there is absolutely no evidence there is any need to condemn this land and destroy these people's homes."

Residents suspect a general desire on the part of environmental activist groups to acquire and retire area lands from human use, rather than a sincere desire to protect the seaside sparrow, underlies Corps policy in the Everglades.

"They pick out a species, make up what its habitat needs to be, and go forward," observed G.B. Oliver, president of the Paragon Foundation, a New Mexico-based grassroots organization dedicated to private property rights. "If they are right, get on with it. But we don't think the science will hold up."

Klamath reincarnated

The Paragon Foundation is doing more than simply lend moral support to the Floridians' cause. The Foundation is a key organizer in the October 17-18 Sawgrass Rebellion protests planned for Naples, and an October 19 protest planned for Homestead.

Caravans from as far away as Klamath Falls, Oregon and Darby, Ohio will make the cross-country trek to help out fellow citizens in need. Capturing and expanding upon the spirit of the Klamath Falls demonstrations last summer, protest organizers expect as many as 30,000 people to participate in the Florida events. Indeed, the protests have gained so much momentum that Collier County has rescinded its offer to make the county fairgrounds available for the protests. The fairgrounds simply won't hold that many people.

"It doesn't really surprise me," said the Paragon Foundation's Jay Walley. "I fully expect 20,000 to 30,000 people to attend this event. I think it may be the largest property rights rally ever staged in the United States."

A shortage of adequate protest sites is not the only unexpected problem facing Sawgrass Rebellion organizers. Another is explaining their absence from home to the folks back West. In a year of failed fire management policies and ongoing government land acquisitions, people back home miss the grassroots clout of Oliver, Walley, and other property rights advocates.

"I am in Florida and I owe you folks an explanation," Walley writes to his fellow Westerners.

"Paragon is 'ridin' for the brand' and lending a hand in Florida, along with many other groups," Walley explains. "This formal linking of like-minded groups is producing a powerful force that can, and will, be brought to bear on similar problems across America. It is an education in working together to produce winning strategies that can be blueprinted for future use."

Adds Walley, "Paragon believes the battle—and I mean Battle with a capital 'B'—to help property owners and public land users in Southern Florida is one that affects every property owner in America. Believe me, it ain't a vacation on the beach!"

"As best I can determine, every land-grabbing scheme devised by the green feds left over from the Clinton regime, and their environmentalist cronies, has been brought to bear on the people in rural South Florida. The Paragon Foundation believes it to be the model for future land grabs nationwide," warned Walley.

More likely, judging by the growing momentum of the Sawgrass Rebellion, this will instead be the model for citizen resistance nationwide.

James M. Taylor is managing editor of Environment & Climate News.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Everglades "restoration" causing major environmental problems

The plan by the Army Corps of Engineers to protect seaside sparrow nesting grounds is but one aspect of an Everglades restoration plan that has been evolving for more than a decade. Despite its varying forms, the ultimate goal of the plan has remained the same: to raise the water table and increase the water flow through the swamps.

This "restoration" of the Everglades, however, is causing some major unforeseen environmental problems throughout South Florida.

During recent years, a mass of jet-black seawater, closely resembling an oil spill in appearance, has sporadically formed off the southern tip of Florida. Local fishermen were the first to spot the black water. As reported in the *Naples News*, "They noted an absence of game fish in normally rich waters, and fishermen are reporting the worst season for several different types of fish that they've seen in many years.

"They'd spotted a huge mass of black water apparently devoid of fish just off Southwest Florida and moving slowly toward the Florida Keys." Satellite photos taken in January and February of this year showed the black water mass covered more than 700 square miles, larger than Central Florida's Lake Okeechobee.

The jet-black water often approaches just yards from the shore. Areas affected include Florida Bay (an area between the tip of the Everglades and the Florida Keys) to as far north as Port Charlotte on the West Central coast.

A study by University of Rhode Island oceanographer Scott Nixon, published by the National Academies' National Research Council, concluded the black waters are caused by higher water levels in the Everglades that lead to greater runoff into coastal waters. The increased Everglades runoff causes masses of dark marine algae to bloom offshore. The traditionally clear, azure waters of Florida Bay and the Florida Keys are likely to be regularly stricken by black, choking algae under the new Everglades plan.

"[E]levated Everglades runoff, caused by Army Corps of Engineers policy, is having a deadly effect on nearby coastal regions."

Supporters of Everglades "restoration"—most of whom don't live anywhere near South Florida—argue the ink-black water, together with its catastrophic effects on offshore plant and animal life, is desirable as a "natural" phenomenon. "So the local fishermen don't catch as many tarpon as they used to, or get to go out boating in crystal clear water," sniffed a self-described environmentalist visiting the area. "That's just a return to nature."

Local residents, however, disagree. Brian Lapointe, senior scientist at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Fort Pierce, warns that fragile coral reefs in the Florida Keys will die as a result of increased Everglades runoff. Killing the coral reefs will kill the reefs' inhabitants.

And it's not just the coral reefs that are in danger. Lapointe notes the once-lush sea grass beds in Florida Bay have been dwindling recently, as well. The beds provide necessary habitat and breeding ground for the fish, shellfish, and marine mammals that populate Florida Bay and nearby Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico waters. Kill the sea grass and you kill its inhabitants, as well.

Some observers argue the increased Everglades runoff is a problem only because the water contains an artificially high level of nitrogen and other nutrients due to South Florida industry, agriculture, and lawn care. While this argument may or may not be proven true, the fact remains that elevated Everglades runoff, caused by Army Corps of Engineers policy, is having a deadly effect on nearby coastal regions.

Confiscating the American dream

BY WENDELL COX

A report recently issued by the Swedish Research Institute of Trade confirmed America's continuing unrivaled wealth.

The group's analysts reported the average Swede receives less income than the average African-American in the U.S. Because Sweden is in the middle of the European income distribution, this means the average European's annual income is similar to, or even less than, the annual income of the average African-American in the U.S.

Of course, conventional wisdom holds that the distribution of income in the U.S. is so unequal that our low-income households are less well off than those in "more enlightened" economies. That view does not stand. The Swedish Research Institute found U.S. low-income households receive more income than low-income Swedish households.

Property rights prevail

Why does the United States consistently report the highest per-capita income of any nation with more people than Rhode Island? There are a number of reasons, but a contributing factor is the strong (though not strong enough) protection of property rights.

A principal role of property rights is the creation of greater wealth: not because property rights make *owners* richer; but because they make *everybody*—especially those in the lowest income classifications—richer.

Property rights are much stronger in the United States than in most other developed countries, and that contributes mightily to our affluence. According to Peruvian economist Hernando De Soto, author of *The Mystery of Capital*, the lack of clear property rights explains why so many post-communist and newly democratic nations have been unable to replicate the economic success of western nations and Japan.

In America, the greater wealth available to middle-income and low-income people is, to a large degree, facilitated by home ownership. Nearly one-half of the net worth of middle-income Americans is in home equity. This equity is capital that can be marshaled to finance educations, new businesses, and home improvement. Homeowners are considerably more affluent than renters, with an average net worth 30 times as great.

The public policy message is clear. Since home ownership creates wealth and improves both real and relative economic positions, home ownership should be encouraged and expanded.

Discouraging home ownership

Regrettably, many (if not most) of America's urban planners are encouraging just the opposite: policies that would reduce home ownership and gut the equity many already have in their homes.

In its *Growing Smart Legislative Guidebook*, the American Planning Association (APA) proposes something called "amortization of non-conforming uses." Translated into everyday language, the term means your house could be virtually confiscated for no reason other than that it does not conform to the vision of urban planners as contained in local, state, or even federal land use plans.

This is not merely some non-threatening policy report for filing and forgetting. *Growing Smart* is being widely distributed to government agencies nationwide as part of an effort to "update" land-use planning and zoning in the United States. As part of former Vice President Al Gore's "Livability Agenda," the *Growing Smart* guide has achieved near-official status as a result of millions of dollars in financial support from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

A new way to take private property

The confiscation clause would work like this: Local government officials, following the *Growing Smart* recommendations, would revise their community's land use and zoning regulations, adopting APA's confiscation policy as part of the new code. In the process, those officials would decide a particular neighborhood should be zoned for multi-family dwellings. In keeping with APA's confiscation policy, they would require that non-conforming structures—such as detached, single-family homes—be brought into conformance with the plan (be made multi-family) by a certain date.

That date might be 20 years into the future, or 10, or five, or even fewer. When the deadline comes, the home owner would no longer be able to use the house as a single-family dwelling. She would have no choice but to sell the land for multi-family redevelopment, redevelop the property herself, or simply abandon it.

There are serious problems with APA's confiscation agenda. For one, it clearly violates the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states: "nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

For HUD to be involved in funding this assault on fundamental Constitutional rights is akin to the Department of Justice financing development of local ordinances to limit free speech.

And, while the confiscation agenda appears to be the most threatening element of *Growing Smart*, there are other causes for concern, such as recommendations that would destroy local democracy by taking local land-use decisions to the regional or even state level.

For at least seven decades, expansion of home ownership has been a principal objective of U.S. economic policy. For even longer, the U.S. has sought to expand the economic pie and increase the standard of living of those at the bottom of the income scale. This is no time to turn back.

Wendell Cox is principal of Wendell Cox Consultancy and a visiting professor of transport and demographics at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers in Paris.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW Hernando De Soto's *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else* is available through Amazon.com at **http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0465016146/theheartlandinst**.

The American Planning Association's *Growing Smart Legislative Guidebook* is available on the Internet at **http://www.planning.org/newsreleases/2002/ftp021301.htm**.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Land-use regulation makes housing less affordable

BY RANDAL O'TOOLE

On August 12, 2002 the *Wall Street Journal* described a 350-square-foot former public toilet in south London that developers are turning into a "stylish apartment." They expect to sell it for around $200,000. "Believe me," a developer told the *Journal*, "there will be a lot of interest."

First-time homebuyers in England will be more interested in a two-room house 60 miles from London, affordably priced at $92,400. The house—which the *Journal* described as a "beach hut"—is made of packing crates and has no plumbing or electricity.

"In the past decade, the U.K. has been building fewer houses than at any time since World War II," reported the *Journal*. The resulting housing shortage is reflected in the fact that people spend an average of just 18 minutes looking at a house before making an offer.

The *Journal* attributed the housing shortage to "bureaucratic difficulties in getting planning permission—especially in protected areas of greenery surrounding cities." As a result, "houses are so scarce that people will buy anything."

This seems likely to be the future of housing in Portland and other "smart-growth" cities in the U.S. Housing affordability is being strongly influenced by government planning and regulation.

What drives housing prices?

On August 9, *USA Today* printed a housing index developed by Coldwell Banker for scores of U.S. cities. The index is based on the median price of a mid-level, 2,200-square foot, four-bedroom, two-bath home. Such a home sells for $1.26 million in Palo Alto, California, but only $101,000 in Yankton, South Dakota. Table 1 presents mid-level home prices for selected cities, along with the growth rates of the city and urban area from 1990 to 2000.

> **"[T]he nation's least-affordable housing markets are almost all in California, Massachusetts, and Oregon, all of which heavily regulate land use."**

A scan of the numbers suggests there is little correlation between home prices and growth rates. In the fastest-growing urban area in America, Las Vegas, the mid-level home sells for $182,000. Despite slow growth and the dot-com collapse, housing prices in the San Francisco-Oakland and San Jose areas remain several times that amount.

By contrast, there is a strong correlation between land-use regulation and housing prices. Land-use regulations are severe in the San Francisco-Oakland and San Jose areas, in Boulder, and in Maryland, Massachusetts, and Oregon. Cities in these states and urban areas have the highest housing prices. Land-use rules are weak in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, and Wyoming, and cities in these states have some of the lowest housing prices.

Of course, housing price is only part of the affordability equation. The other part is income. If incomes in Seattle are double those in Las Vegas, then housing in Seattle (which costs slightly less than twice as much as in Las Vegas) may actually be the more affordable. Alas for Seattlites, Seattle household incomes are less than 50 percent greater than those in Las Vegas.

Measuring "housing opportunity"

The National Association of Home Builders regularly compares median incomes with median home prices for nearly 200 metropolitan areas. The group's "housing opportunity index" is the percentage of homes affordable to a family of median income in each metropolitan area. Table 2 compares the latest edition of the index (first quarter 2002) with the 1990s' growth rates for those areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW on housing affordability, including a four-page brochure addressing the nation's "silent housing affordability crisis," visit the Web site of the National Association of Home Builders at **http://www.nahb.org/housing_issues/silent.htm**.

The r-squared (a statistical measure of correlation) between the index and growth was less than 0.007, which is no better than random (i.e., two random number sets easily score r-squareds higher than 0.007). Thus, housing affordability has little relationship with growth. Instead, other factors, such as land-use regulation, determine affordability.

According to the latest edition of this index, the nation's least-affordable housing markets are almost all in California, Massachusetts, and Oregon, all of which heavily regulate land use. Affordable fast-growing regions are in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, and Texas. Except for Florida, all of these are lightly regulated. It would be interesting to know how Florida maintains its affordability despite its regulatory environment.

Defenders of land-use regulations say planning makes cities more livable, so naturally they would be more desirable and housing would be more expensive. But is Portland really more liv-

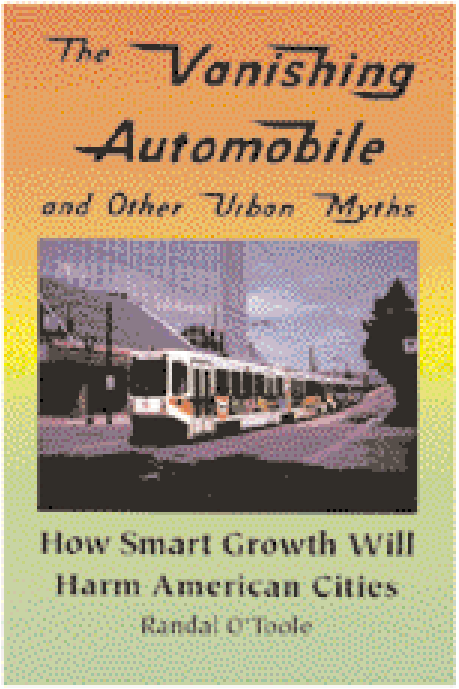
HOUSING continued on next page

Freedom's Answer to so-called Smart Growth

Smart growth aims to destroy the American Dream of homeownership and mobility. Its advocates believe Americans should ride mass transit instead of drive cars and live in high-density apartments instead of low-density suburbs. To achieve these goals, smart-growth planners deliberately increase traffic congestion and make housing unaffordable.

The Vanishing Automobile and Other Urban Myths dispels smart-growth fantasies and presents free-market solutions to urban problems. The American Planning Association says *The Vanishing Auto* is "compelling and well documented" and "marshals a formidable array of facts" to "lambast planners' attempts to limit personal freedom."

If you live in a city, town, or suburb, then smart growth is coming to you and you need *The Vanishing Automobile*.



The Vanishing Automobile is written by Randal O'Toole, senior economist with the Thoreau Institute, adjunct scholar with the Cato Institute, and frequent contributor to *Environment & Climate News*.

Now available as a CD-ROM!

The CD includes:

- The entire book in Acrobat format;
- A 25-minute narrated slide show on *The Costs of Smart Growth*;
- Updates, data, factsheets, and more.

We also have a video presenting *The Costs of Smart Growth* slide show.

- ❑ *The Vanishing Automobile* book $14.95 + $4.00 shipping
- ❑ *The Vanishing Automobile* CD $14.95 + $1.00 shipping
- ❑ *The Costs of Smart Growth* video $9.95 + $3.50 shipping
- ❑ Book or CD (circle which) plus video $19.95 +$ 5.20 (book)/$4 (CD) shipping
- ❑ Book plus CD plus video $29.95 + $5.20 shipping

Shipping costs are slightly higher outside the U.S.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State____ Zip_____

Make check payable to The Thoreau Institute and mail to P.O. Box 1590, Bandon, Oregon 97411.

For more information, visit the Thoreau Institute web site at www.ti.org.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

HOUSING continued from page 12

able than Albuquerque? Or Oakland more livable than Las Vegas? San Francisco is a fun place to visit, but is it really four times more livable than Phoenix?

Attempts to make housing more affordable through "inclusionary zoning"—an ordinance requiring developers to offer a certain percentage of their homes at prices affordable to low-income buyers—will only make the problem worse. The "affordable housing" provided by such measures will make up a tiny percentage of the entire housing market. But developers will have to increase the cost of the other homes they build in order to cross-subsidize the affordable units. This will drive up overall market prices as resellers take advantage of higher new home costs.

The main beneficiaries of inclusionary zoning won't include many of the low-income people most hurt by housing regulation. Instead, recent college graduates, whose incomes are low enough to qualify for low-income housing but whose lifetime earnings are likely to be high, will probably snap up much of the low-income housing required by inclusionary rules.

How to get more affordable housing

Further research should develop an index of regulation that could be directly compared with, say, the NAHB housing opportunity index. Several counties in Nevada have no regulation—they do not even require building permits—and thus would score a 0 on the index. The highest level of regulation might be found in cities such as Boulder or some parts of the San Francisco Bay Area, which strictly limit the number of new building permits issued each year.

The most important thing home builders, realtors, and other affordable housing advocates can do, however, is to put a human face on unaffordable housing. The South Carolina Landowners' Association is a coalition of realtors and low-income, often minority, landowners that is fighting land-use regulation in that state. The landowners are badly hurt by large-lot zoning and other planning requirements, but they lack lobbying skills. With the assistance of realtors and others, they are having an affect on state and local politics.

John Templeton, one of the association's cofounders, was honored in 2000 by the South Carolina Association of Realtors as the Legislative Grass Roots Realtor of the Year. This group provides a model that people in other regions should emulate.

*Randal O'Toole (*rot@ti.org*) is senior economist with the Thoreau Institute (*www.ti.org*).*

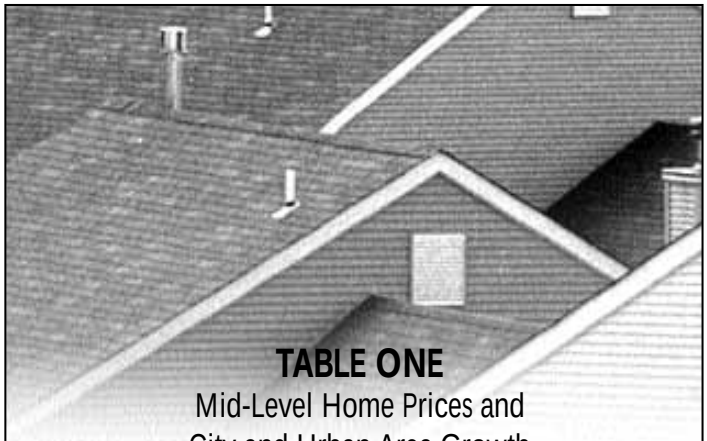


TABLE ONE

Mid-Level Home Prices and City and Urban Area Growth

CITY	PRICE OF MID-LEVEL HOME	PERCENT GROWTH 1990-2000 CITY	URBAN AREA
Palo Alto	$1,263,250	5	7
San Francisco	891,000	7	6
Oakland	649,333	7	6
Boston	628,333	3	45
Boulder	462,000	11	14
Seattle	335,317	9	56
Minneapolis	301,566	4	15
Portland	275,725	21	35
Atlanta	269,780	66	2
Denver	251,600	19	31
Baltimore	243,500	-12	10
Reno	239,205	35	42
Anchorage	237,988	15	2
Salt Lake	234,725	14	12
Milwaukee	222,633	-5	7
Phoenix	209,283	34	45
Raleigh	203,166	33	77
Madison	197,790	9	35
Albuquerque	190,000	17	20
Las Vegas	181,800	85	89
Mesa	180,133	38	45
Cheyenne	177,000	6	11
Boise	173,500	48	62
Houston	162,480	20	32

TABLE TWO

First Quarter 2002 Housing Opportunity Index (HOI) and 1990-2000 Growth

METROPOLITAN AREA	HOI	GROWTH
Elkhart-Goshen, IN MSA	94.9	17.0
Kokomo, IN	94.8	4.7
Fargo-Moorhead, ND-MN	94.5	13.7
Springfield, IL MSA	92.6	6.3
Peoria-Pekin, IL MSA	90.8	2.4
Dayton-Springfield, OH MSA	90.0	-0.1
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL MSA	89.8	2.3
Wilmington-Newark, DE-MD PMSA	89.4	14.2
Muncie, IN	89.1	-0.7
Springfield, MO, MSA	88.7	23.2
Indianapolis, IN MSA	88.6	16.4
Champaign-Urbana, IL MSA	87.0	3.8
Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	86.4	12.2
Lafayette, IN	86.1	13.2
Youngstown-Warren, OH MSA	85.8	-1.0
Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton, NJ PMSA	85.6	6.1
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL MSA	85.5	19.4
Tallahassee, FL MSA	85.1	21.8
Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay, FL MSA	84.9	19.4
Rockford, IL MSA	84.9	12.6
Des Moines, IA	84.5	16.1
Hamilton-Middletown, OH PMSA	83.9	14.2
Fort Walton Beach, FL MSA	83.8	18.6
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN PMSA	83.6	8.9
Mansfield, OH MSA	83.5	1.0
Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, NC MSA	83.2	19.2
Charleston, WV	83.2	0.5
Canton-Massillon, OH MSA	83.0	3.3
Ocala, FL MSA	82.8	32.9
Syracuse, NY MSA	82.8	-1.4
Pensacola, FL MSA	82.8	19.7
Saginaw-Bay City-Midland, MI MSA	82.6	0.9
Omaha, NE-IA MSA	82.2	12.1
Atlanta, GA MSA	81.8	38.9
Toledo, OH MSA	81.6	0.7
Baton Rouge, LA MSA	81.6	14.1
Columbia, SC MSA	81.5	18.4
Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson, SC MSA	81.5	15.9
Williamsport, PA MSA	81.4	1.1
Jackson, MS MSA	81.3	11.5
Duluth-Superior, MN-WI MSA	81.1	1.6
Lansing-East Lansing, MI MSA	80.9	3.5
South Bend, IN MSA	80.8	7.5
Lexington, KY MSA	80.6	18.0
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX MSA	80.6	6.6
Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland, MI MSA	80.6	16.1
Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle, PA MSA	80.4	7.0
Punta Gorda, FL MSA	80.3	27.6
Panama City, FL MSA	80.2	16.7
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY MSA	80.1	-1.6
Oklahoma City, OK MSA	80.1	13.0
Fayetteville, NC	80.0	10.3
Reading, PA MSA	79.9	11.0
Akron, OH PMSA	79.9	5.7
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH PMSA	79.9	2.2
Fort Worth-Arlington, TX PMSA	79.7	25.1
Richmond-Petersburg, VA MSA	79.3	15.1
Mobile, AL	78.7	13.3
Nashville, TN MSA	78.6	25.0
Rochester, NY MSA	78.6	3.4
Fort Pierce-Port St. Lucie, FL MSA	78.4	27.2
Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV PMSA	78.3	16.6
Columbus, OH MSA	78.2	14.5
Jacksonville, FL MSA	77.8	21.4
Louisville, KY-IN MSA	77.8	8.1
Knoxville, TN	77.7	17.3
Boise City, ID	77.7	46.1
St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	77.6	4.5
Tulsa, OK MSA	77.5	13.3
Baltimore, MD PMSA	77.4	7.2
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL MSA	77.4	15.9
Little Rock-North Little Rock, AR	77.0	13.8
Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA, MSA	76.8	4.8
Philadelphia, PA-NJ PMSA	76.7	5.0
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	76.7	16.9
Hagerstown, MD PMSA	76.6	8.7
Goldsboro, NC MSA	76.4	8.3
Rocky Mount, NC MSA	76.4	7.3
Springfield, MA MSA	76.4	0.7
Memphis, TN-AR-MS MSA	76.1	12.7
Gainesville, FL MSA	76.1	20.0
Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI PMSA	76.0	4.8
Hartford, CT MSA	75.8	2.2
Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC MSA	75.6	38.9
Anchorage, AK MSA	75.6	15.0
New Haven-Meriden, CT PMSA	75.5	2.3
Orlando, FL MSA	75.5	34.3
Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC MSA	75.5	8.8
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ MSA	75.4	45.3
Nassau-Suffolk, NY PMSA	74.8	5.5
Fort Myers-Cape Coral, FL MSA	74.2	31.6
Chicago, IL PMSA	73.7	11.6
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC MSA	73.7	29.0
Birmingham, AL MSA	73.4	9.6
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton, FL MSA	72.6	31.0
Sarasota-Bradenton, FL MSA	72.6	20.5
Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula, MS MSA	71.6	16.5
Greenville, NC MSA	71.6	24.0
Reno, NV MSA	70.8	33.3
Dallas, TX PMSA	70.5	31.5
Tucson, AZ MSA	70.4	26.5
Fort Lauderdale, FL PMSA	70.3	29.3
Benton Harbor, MI MSA	70.2	0.7
Las Vegas, NV-AZ MSA	70.2	83.3
New London-Norwich, CT-RI MSA	70.0	1.0
New Orleans, LA MSA	69.5	4.1
Bakersfield, CA MSA	69.4	21.7
Pittsburgh, PA MSA	69.4	-1.5
El Paso, TX MSA	68.8	14.9
Naples, FL MSA	68.8	65.3
Amarillo, TX MSA	68.7	16.2
San Antonio, TX MSA	68.5	20.2
Charleston-North Charleston, SC MSA	68.5	8.3
Hattiesburg, MS MSA	68.5	13.1
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY MSA	68.5	1.6
Trenton, NJ PMSA	68.4	7.7
Salt Lake City-Ogden, UT MSA	68.3	24.4
Austin-San Marcos, TX MSA	67.9	47.7
Houston, TX PMSA	67.8	25.8
Yuma, AZ MSA	67.5	49.7
Asheville, NC	67.2	17.8
Houma, LA MSA	67.1	6.4
Detroit, MI PMSA	67.1	4.1
Kalamazoo-Battle Creek, MI MSA	67.0	5.4
Flint, MI PMSA	66.5	1.3
Spokane, WA, MSA	66.1	15.7
Pittsfield, MA MSA	65.7	-4.5
Brazoria, TX PMSA	65.2	26.1
Olympia, WA PMSA	64.9	28.6
Burlington, VT MSA	64.6	11.8
Pueblo, CO MSA	64.1	15.0
Visalia-Tulare-Porterville, CA MSA	63.6	18.0
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA PMSA	63.1	18.8
Lafayette, LA	62.7	11.8
Waterbury, CT PMSA	62.7	3.3
Bremerton, WA PMSA	62.5	22.3
Boulder-Longmont, CO PMSA	62.4	29.3
Atlantic-Cape May, NJ PMSA	62.4	11.1
Newark, NJ PMSA	62.1	6.1
Bergen-Passaic, NJ PMSA	61.5	7.4
Provo-Orem, UT MSA	60.7	39.8
Danbury, CT PMSA	60.6	12.6
Ann Arbor, MI PMSA	60.2	18.1
Colorado Springs, CO MSA	60.1	30.2
Honolulu, HI MSA	59.7	4.8
Santa Fe, NM, MSA	59.6	26.1
Denver, CO PMSA	59.6	30.0
Bellingham, WA	59.6	30.5
Galveston-Texas City, TX PMSA	58.9	15.1
Nashua, NH PMSA	58.7	13.5
Miami, FL PMSA	58.1	16.3
Worcester, MA-CT PMSA	57.4	6.9
Fort Collins-Loveland, CO MSA	57.2	35.1
Tacoma, WA PMSA	54.7	19.6
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco, WA, MSA	54.6	27.9
Fresno, CA MSA	52.1	22.1
Salem, OR PMSA	50.4	24.9
Redding, CA MSA	50.2	11.0
New York, NY PMSA	49.9	9.0
Riverside-San Bernardino, CA PMSA	49.6	25.7
Boston, MA-NH PMSA	48.2	5.5
Yuba City, CA MSA	47.2	13.5
Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA PMSA	46.6	26.6
Jersey City, NJ PMSA	45.4	10.1
Sacramento, CA PMSA	43.7	21.5
Greeley, CO PMSA	41.3	37.3
Chico-Paradise, CA MSA	40.9	11.6
New Bedford, MA PMSA	39.9	-0.3
Eugene-Springfield, OR	38.9	14.2
Yolo, CA PMSA	38.9	19.5
Lawrence, MA-NH PMSA	38.1	22.2
Orange County, CA PMSA	37.7	18.1
Ventura, CA PMSA	36.9	12.6
Barnstable-Yarmouth, MA MSA	36.7	20.5
Lowell, MA-NH PMSA	35.6	7.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA PMSA	34.4	7.4
Modesto, CA	33.6	20.6
Merced, CA MSA	33.0	18.0
Medford-Ashland, OR MSA	29.1	23.8
Stockton-Lodi, CA MSA	27.2	17.3
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc, CA MSA	25.2	8.0
Oakland, CA PMSA	23.9	14.9
San Diego, CA MSA	21.6	12.6
Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME PMSA	21.5	7.8
San Jose, CA PMSA	20.1	12.4
Vallejo-Fairfield-Napa, CA PMSA	17.9	15.0
Santa Rosa, CA PMSA	15.3	18.1
San Luis Obispo-Atascadero-Paso Robles, CA MSA	13.0	13.6
San Francisco, CA PMSA	9.2	8.0
Santa Cruz-Watsonville, CA PMSA	8.0	11.3
Salinas, CA MSA	7.7	13.0

HOI represents the percentage of homes in each region that is affordable to a family of median income in that region.
Growth is the population growth in percent between the 1990 and 2000 censuses.
MSA is metropolitan statistical area and *PMSA* is Partial MSA. MSAs and PMSAs are drawn along county boundaries.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

We do much more than just publish this newspaper.

More state legislators recognize and trust The Heartland Institute than any other free-market think tank.*

We send three monthly newspapers and a quarterly magazine to every state and national elected official, plus tens of thousands of grassroots activists nationwide.

We also operate *PolicyBot*, the Internet's biggest on-line clearinghouse for public policy research and commentary.

Please visit us at
www.heartland.org
See what you're missing.

heartland.org

*Telephone survey of state elected officials conducted in May 2002 by Wiegand Victory Enterprises.

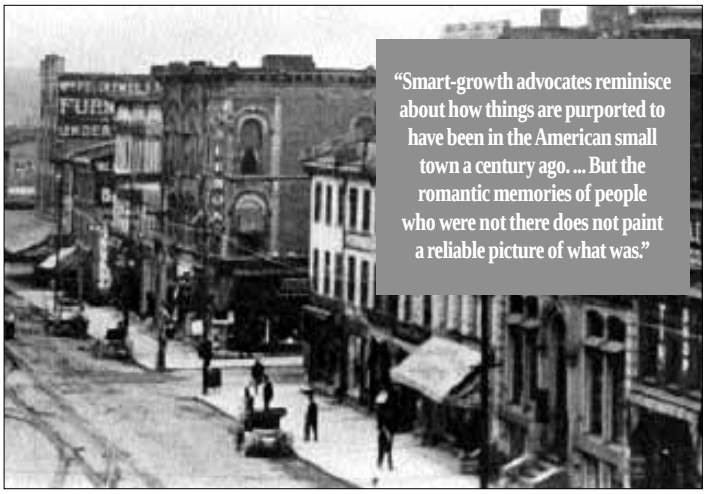
From Never-Never Land to Shangri-La: *The livability fantasy*

BY WENDELL COX

Smart-growth activists, especially those representing the movement's new urbanist component, frequently talk about "livable cities"—implying that, over the past 50 years, America has developed cities that are not livable. This will come as news to the unprecedented millions of Americans who live a lifestyle that is the envy of billions around the world.

Smart-growth advocates reminisce about how things are purported to have been in the American small town a century ago. There was a greater sense of community. People sat in rockers on their front porches, greeting passers-by. They had no need for cars, because virtually everything was within walking distance, including the corner grocery store, where they conversed around the cracker barrel on their daily visits. It was a more democratic time. Communities were economically integrated.

But the romantic memories of people who were not there does not paint a reliable picture of what was. The physician did not live between the blacksmith and the janitor. True, they lived closer together. Everyone did. Communities were smaller in a nation of 75 million than in a nation of 285 million.



"Smart-growth advocates reminisce about how things are purported to have been in the American small town a century ago. ... But the romantic memories of people who were not there does not paint a reliable picture of what was."

A different kind of community

Technology—from the automobile to low-cost long-distance telephone service, the Internet, and air conditioning—has revolutionized community. The small-town residents of yesteryear spent more time with their neighbors not out of an inherent interest in community, but rather because they had little opportunity to meet and communicate with geographically remote people who shared more common interests.

Community exists today, but like everything else, it is different. There are multiple communities—local, regional, and global—made possible by telecommunications and information technology.

Moreover, our great-grandparents did not sit on their front porches and speak to passersby out of a sense of community—it was simply more comfortable there than in their non-air conditioned houses. There were also fewer things to do: no television and no Internet. If community were driving the porch-sidewalk dynamic, then there would have been as many people on the porch in the frozen dead of a Cleveland winter as in the summer. There weren't. Community does not ebb and flow with the seasons.

Today, people maximize their leisure time and standard of living by traveling to the discount department stores, the supermarkets, and specialized "big box" stores that have done so much to improve affluence, especially for those with lower incomes. Changing tastes now have people driving to mega-churches in the suburbs, rather than walking or driving to nearby churches. They drive to the lake, mountains, or other recreational locations.

The income-based distribution of residences is as it was 100 years ago. The physician does not live between the truck driver and the day laborer. Patterns are similar throughout the developed world. Outside the affluent core of Paris, for example, are the equivalents of U.S. public housing towers housing the minority poor in the suburbs. Minorities make up a disproportionate share of Stockholm's architecturally Stalinist housing estates.

And then there is the fact that by no means everyone lived in the mythical small towns that populate new urbanist minds. Millions lived in large cities. Many of these millions were front porchless, relegated to fulfilling their community hailing obligations from upper story windows. Those were the lucky ones. Others didn't even have windows from which the street could be seen.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW about the Lone Mountain Compact, which outlines principles for preserving freedom and livability in America's cities and suburbs, visit PERC's Web site at **http://www.perc.org/publications/articles/lone_mountain_full.html**.

Failed utopia

The grand fantasy of livability has as little chance for realization as its proponents have of altering historical reality.

Households will make some purchases by walking to yuppified convenience stores in new urbanist enclaves pretending to be something they are not. But residents will still travel miles to do the serious shopping, where there is more variety and where prices are lower. And they will spend far less on fuel than they save on other purchases.

Professionals who have paid the inflated house prices will not, in pursuit of the new urbanist ideal, take jobs in the beauty salons or Starbuck's "wannabes" in the cutesy town centers. Indeed, there is a less than one chance in 10 that they will take transit to their jobs ... which are likely to be just as far away, on average, as if they lived on a one-half acre lot in suburbia half a mile away.

And then there is the fact that most new urbanist communities are, in fact, *in suburbia*, and many are dreaded "leapfrog" developments.

Genuine livability is evidenced by the choices people make. People buy cars because they satisfy both their needs and desires, and they buy houses in the suburbs for virtually the same reason. They make these choices because they are more livable than the alternatives. It should come as no surprise that the smart-growth movement has, with its definition of livability, turned semantics on its head, just as it has with the term "smart growth" itself.

No one should object to development of a misnamed "livable" community freely chosen and paid for by its residents. This is consistent with the Lone Mountain Compact principle that *absent a material threat to other individuals or the community, people should be allowed to live and work where and how they like.* But such a measure of freedom offends the self-appointed elites whose psyche requires controlling other peoples' lives, not just their own. In Marxian terms, they would impose a dictatorship of the busybodies.

The livability thesis is based upon a revisionist, doctrinally enhanced misreading of history. The architects of livability seek to design a "back to the future" that never was. Indeed, the new urbanist prospect is more likely to mimic that of Robert Owen's New Harmony (Indiana) or any other of history's many failed utopias.

Wendell Cox is principal of Wendell Cox Consultancy and visiting professor at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers, Paris.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Daschle double-dealing scorches Healthy Forests opponents

Opposition to active forest management took an unexpected hit on July 23 from an unlikely source. On that date, fellow lawmakers discovered that Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) had inserted into a spending bill language that exempted forests in his home state from environmental regulations and lawsuits. Daschle has been a leading critic of active forest management and has fought hard against any attempts to streamline federal regulations or activist lawsuits against the federal government.

The South Dakota forestry measure was silently slipped into a defense spending bill providing supplementary funds to fight terrorism. Daschle's measure states, "due to extraordinary circumstances"—allegedly unshared by other parts of the country—significant portions of South Dakota will be exempt from the yoke of controversial environmental laws and regulations championed by Daschle when applied to the rest of the country.

The Washington Times reported Daschle's actions on July 24, and the reaction was swift and severe.

"It certainly can only be described as blatant hypocrisy on behalf of the Senate leader to claim on one hand to be the champion of the environment and then on the other hand to cut a special deal for his home state," said Representative John Hayworth (R-Arizona).

"What's good for the Black Hills should be good for every forest in the United States," proclaimed Senator Larry Craig (R-Idaho).

"After hearing all the hand-wringing from environmentalists downplaying the impact of appeals and litigation, it's nice to see that the highest-ranking Democrat in the nation agrees that these frivolous challenges have totally crippled forest managers," said Representative Scott McInnis (R-Colorado).

"It will be interesting to find out if what's good for Mr. Daschle's goose is also good for the West's gander," McInnis added. "We intend to find out."

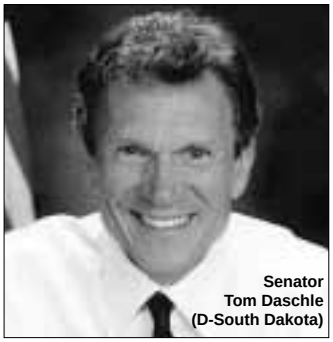
When word of his actions became public, Daschle attempted to downplay and rationalize the special treatment for South Dakota.

"As we have seen in the last several weeks, the fire danger in the Black Hills is high and we need to get crews on the ground as soon as possible to reduce this risk and protect property and lives," argued Daschle.

Daschle asserted his measure represented the "fastest and most effective way to get the forest thinned." Moreover, "To be effective, any piece of legislation must be crafted in a way that avoids more time-consuming litigation, and this deal should meet that critical test."

Daschle further argued that special exemptions were appropriate for South Dakota because activist groups like the Sierra Club had signed off on it. Daschle argued that approval from such groups was a necessary prerequisite and "the linchpin of my amendment."

However, the Senate Majority Leader's ability to get a sweetheart deal from the Sierra Club while fighting similar forest management plans everywhere else in the country did not surprise many Westerners.



Senator
Tom Daschle
(D-South Dakota)

"What he is proving today is that true environmentalists are willing to have effective forest management," Hayworth continued. "This is a classic case of somebody saying one thing for political posturing, and doing another for public policy."

Interior Secretary Gale Norton predicted Daschle's actions would dramatically improve the chances of Congress approving President George W. Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative. "It shows there is bipartisan recognition that red tape has interfered with good forest management," said Norton.

FORESTS continued from page 1

and-burn federal forest policy of recent years.

Initiative fulfills prior promises

The President's initiative is designed to attain longstanding federal forestry goals that have fallen victim to environmental litigation and bureaucratic red tape.

Nearly a decade ago, the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan sought to ensure healthy forests while simultaneously assisting the economy by allowing the production of a billion board feet of timber per year. A May 2002 agreement between the federal government and tribal leaders, local officials, and 17 western governors resulted in a 10-Year Fire Plan implementation strategy to reduce the threat of severe fires.

> **"The President's initiative is designed to attain longstanding federal forestry goals that have fallen victim to environmental litigation and bureaucratic red tape."**

Both the Northwest Forest Plan and the 10-Year Fire Plan were designed to promote healthy forests in significant part by thinning overgrown tree stands. However, regulatory, bureaucratic, and legal obstacles have prevented effective implementation of these programs.

One component of Bush's new Healthy Forests Initiative focuses on reducing unnecessary regulatory obstacles that hinder active forest management. Currently, federal efforts to actively manage forests are hampered by extensive regulations and policy considerations that have led to "analysis paralysis," in the words of U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth. According to Bosworth, the current policy environment encourages redundant planning, evaluating, and reevaluating, but little action.

Another component of the Healthy Forests Initiative aims to streamline bureaucratic processes. Last year's Thirty-Mile Fire, in which four young firefighters needlessly lost their lives after the fire had been initially contained, has served as a wake-up call not only regarding bureaucratic red tape in the fire-response process, but also regarding red tape that allows deadly wildfires to rage out of control in the first place. The President's program would streamline bureaucratic processes that currently choke off efficient and effective forest management.

Finally, the new proposal calls for Congress to reform laws that allow activist groups to kill timely forest management efforts by launching a seemingly unending stream of administrative challenges and federal lawsuits. For example, the General Accounting Office reports environmental appeals delayed a full 48 percent of the Forest Service's fire prevention projects in fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

"These numbers are a scathing indictment of the process that governs management of the nation's forests, and a harsh reminder of just how relentlessly ideological some environmental litigants have become," said Representative

FORESTS continued on page 16

JUST IMAGINE
THE POSSIBILITIES IN
PORTLAND
Plan NOW to attend the National Grange's 136th Annual Convention.
November 11 through November 17, 2002
Held this year in historic and panoramic Portland, Oregon!
ASK FOR SPECIAL GRANGE ROOM RATES!
For Reservations call 1-800-222-8733
or 503-283-4466
Specify group code: NGC
"Change with the Grange" keynote address by internationally renowned motivational speaker Jay Lehr!
"Celebration Banquet" address by OSU political scientist and commentator Bill Lunch!
Featuring grassroots advocacy workshops on legislative involvement, electronic communications, effective public presentations, internal communications and media relations.
Convention registration includes the popular "Annual Talent Show" and the inspirational "Conferral of the Sixth and Seventh Degrees."
Tour the Columbia River Gorge!
For More Information
visit www.nationalgrange.org or call 1-888-447-2643 for registration and hotel information!
136th Annual
National Grange Convention
Nov. 11 through Nov. 17, 2002

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

You've been had!

BOOK REVIEW BY MICHAEL FITZPATRICK

You've Been Had! How the Media and Environmentalists Turned America into a Nation of Hypochondriacs
Melvin A Benarde, Rutgers University Press, $28

As his title suggests, epidemiologist Melvin Benarde is not one to mince words.

To Benarde, television, radio, and newspapers are "the scoundrels at whose doorsteps must be placed our current pandemic of mediagenic diseases." He cites recent scares over "an extraordinary range of potential causes of cancer," including "asbestos, dioxin, hot dogs, breast implants, pesticides, coffee, liquor, hair dryers, mouthwash, dietary fat, magnetic fields and cellular phones." He blames the media for creating "an epidemic of anxiety, year after persistent year of alarm."

Benarde presents an impressive body of evidence in support of his indictment of the media. He accurately identifies the dangers arising from the trend of the mainstream media to report directly from specialist medical and scientific journals. Preliminary and provisional findings are presented, sometimes before peer review and without appropriate caveats, as proof of links between familiar products or activities and lethal diseases.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW *You've Been Had! How the Media and Environmentalists Turned America into a Nation of Hypochondriacs*, by Melvin A. Benarde, is available through Amazon.com at **http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0813530504/theheartlandinst.**

Premature reporting of dramatic breakthroughs may also have a demoralizing effect on the public; as Benarde puts it, "purveying false hope is not virtuous."

Media not only to blame

A closer examination reveals the media often play a secondary role to prominent medical and political figures in the promotion of public concerns about health. For example, Benarde discusses the "five-a-day for better health" campaign launched in the United States in 1991, recommending more fruit and vegetables to prevent colorectal cancer. He reports major studies published in 1999 and 2000 confirming no evidence of benefit; claims that such dietary changes prevent heart disease and stroke also remain unsubstantiated. The media can scarcely be blamed for this and many similarly dubious health promotion campaigns sponsored by doctors and health ministries.

The other main target of *You've Been Had!* is the environmental movement (and the allied world of alternative health). Benarde presents a damning critique of the way in which Green campaigners have grossly inflated public fears of toxic wastes and pesticides, nuclear power and genetically modified foods, to the general detriment of public health and welfare. He also condemns the multibillion dollar trade in dietary supplements, vitamins, minerals, and herbals, whose products are scandalously "unregulated, untested, unstandardized and have unknown effects." "At the moment," Benarde writes, "crankiness is ascendant" as the media collude with environmentalist pseudoscience, and serious scientists too often remain aloof.

> **"To combat the irresponsible manipulation of popular anxieties about health, Benarde proposes 'SL: scientific literacy,' a national campaign to provide basic scientific education for all."**

To combat the irresponsible manipulation of popular anxieties about health, Benarde proposes "SL: scientific literacy," a national campaign to provide basic scientific education for all. I think this is a good idea, but I offer a friendly amendment: Rather than beginning with the schools, the SL campaign should start where most health scares originate, in the medical establishment and the government.

Michael Fitzpatrick is a general medical practitioner in Hackney, London.

FORESTS continued from page 15

Scott McInnis (R-Colorado).

"We have a problem with the regulatory body there in Washington," said President Bush from the top of Squires Peak. "There are so many regulations, and so much red tape ... there are just too many lawsuits, just endless litigation.

"We want to make sure our citizens have the right to the courthouse," Bush added. "But there's a fine balance between people expressing themselves and their opinions and using litigation to keep the United States of America from enacting common-sense forest policy."

Squires Peak fire avoidable

The President's message was particularly poignant atop Squires Peak.

In 1996, federal officials identified Squires Peak as a region at high risk of fire, and they began planning to thin crowded trees and dense underbrush on 24,000 acres. However, six years of analysis, documentation, administrative appeals, and lawsuits delayed and reduced the scope of the project to just 430 acres.

When lightning ignited the Squires Peak fire on July 13, 2002, an inferno quickly grew and spread through 2,800 acres of unmanaged forests. In these unthinned areas, the fire killed most trees, sterilized soils, and destroyed the habitat of threatened spotted owls.

However, when the blaze reached the 430 acres addressed by the Squires Peak management program, the fire was starved of its fuel, and the forest was unharmed by the fire. The fire cost $2 million to suppress in the unthinned areas, and $1 million will be needed to rehabilitate the devastated area.

Moreover, Squires Peak was not the first time this year that active forest management proved instrumental in saving plant and animal life from raging wildfires. After an outbreak of wildfires six years ago blackened much of the Arizona landscape, Flagstaff assistant fire chief Jim Wheeler worked with officials in the Coconino National Forest to thin forests on 100,000 acres of land adjacent to Flagstaff.

> **"With President Bush leading the charge, and Democrats joining the reform bandwagon in droves, the political worm has turned against those defending the disastrous status quo on our national forests."**
>
> REP. SCOTT MCINNIS
> R-COLORADO

Earlier this year, the program proved remarkably effective. In June, at the same time and in the same vicinity that the deadly Fort Apache fire blazed out of control, a wildfire broke out near Flagstaff. Unlike the Fort Apache fire, however, the Flagstaff fire raced toward a subdivision of homes and then died out in a grove of ponderosa pines Wheeler had thinned.

"The point is this," said Wheeler, "either we start thinning the forests ourselves or we are going to lose them to a catastrophic fire."

The Healthy Forests Initiative "would give us management tools we desperately need to help get our forests and communities out of the crisis they are in," Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman told the House Resources Committee on September 5. "It recognizes that time is not on our side" and that foresters "must be empowered to act quickly and effectively."

Congress tackles forest management

The President's initiative mirrors several pieces of legislation set for Congressional consideration. Republican Representatives McInnis, Dennis Rehberg (Montana), and John Shadegg (Arizona) have each introduced bills that would eliminate obstacles to effective forest management. Senator Larry Craig (R-Idaho) was planning to introduce similar legislation in the Senate.

The White House is counting on a consensus of Republicans and western Democrats to steer his initiative or similar legislation through Congress. West of the Rockies—the region most significantly affected by this year's record wildfires—Republicans and Democrats alike are backing the President's initiative. In addition to near-unanimity among Republican lawmakers, prominent western Democrats, including California Senator Dianne Feinstein and Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, have supported the President's proposal.

"Thinning is probably the greatest source of apprehension among environmentalists, but I strongly believe that we can find an accommodation and do this, and I hope to meet with both the National Forest Service and leaders of major environmental organizations to discuss this further," said Feinstein. "These projects are too often delayed by lengthy environmental and bureaucratic review, creating even more hazardous overgrowth that, in the end, could pose more danger to the environment than any thinning project ever could."

"If there ever was an issue on which we should all be on the same page, this is it, because the increased catastrophic fire risk should be of serious concern to all Americans, particularly in the Western United States," she added.

Wyden also campaigned for active forest management. "It is absolutely critical, on a bipartisan basis, [that] we move more aggressively with a fuels reduction program to end this devastation we are seeing in the West," he said.

"With President Bush leading the charge, and Democrats joining the reform bandwagon in droves, the political worm has turned against those defending the disastrous status quo on our national forests," observed McInnis.

Nevertheless, passage of the President's plan is far from guaranteed. Democrats east of the Rockies have largely opposed the type of active forest management Westerners are requesting. Their approach would continue the practice of allowing unprecedented fuel buildup, to be followed by major fires. The only active management would be federal programs to help people make their homes more fire resistant.

Any significant new forest plan would require 60 votes to pass through the Senate. Much like last year's bill to allow oil recovery in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the President's Healthy Forests Initiative could fail despite majority support in both the House and the Senate.

James M. Taylor is managing editor of Environment & Climate News.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Sustainable development: The book and the ideology

BOOK REVIEW BY PAUL DRIESSEN

Sustainable Development: Promoting Progress or Perpetuating Poverty?
Julian Morris (editor), Profile Books, $15.00

Scarcely a day goes by without a grim new report warning of "dire consequences" if the world does not quickly adopt new protocols on "sustainable development."

Most of these studies are produced or sponsored by the United Nations, intended to set the stage for such events as the U.N.'s recent World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The proposed protocols are backed by dozens of countries (most notably the European Union), hundreds of wealthy activist groups, vast armies of bureaucrats, literally billions of dollars of taxpayer and foundation money, and throngs of sympathetic journalists.

But now an important new book challenges the themes, assumptions, analyses and "solutions" advocated by the sustainable development movement.

Sustainable Development: Promoting Progress or Perpetuating Poverty? is thought-provoking, well-researched, and backed by extensive data. Edited by Julian Morris, codirector of the International Policy Network, the book brings together the experience and thoughts of 17 experts from five continents. It should be required reading for anyone interested in Johannesburg World Summit issues or dealing with issues of trade, development, foreign aid, environmental protection, and a better future for people and our planet.

Real Needs

Ask an environmental activist to define sustainable development, and he will most likely say it means we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It's pious, altruistic, and vague.

Morris reveals how this vision of sustainability reflects the aesthetic preferences of a small cadre of bureaucrats, multinational NGOs, and wealthy foundations in developed countries. The needs, views, and concerns of poor people in poor countries are largely ignored. Those concerns include:

- 1.6 billion people still do not have access to electricity, and 3 million (mostly women and children) die from acute respiratory infections because they are forced to cook and heat with wood and dried cow dung. Hydroelectric dams and coal- or gas-fired power plants could eliminate this indoor air pollution, but the proponents of sustainable development oppose those key energy sources. They favor wind and solar power.

  But wind power requires giant turbines that slaughter birds by the thousands. Generating electricity equal to just 20 percent of U.S. energy consumption would require 230,000 hectares of wind turbines (an area the size of Virginia or Cuba), according to American Wind Energy Association data. And gas-fired generators would still be needed, to produce electricity whenever the wind stops blowing. Solar power has similar limitations.
- 1.3 billion people lack access to clean drinking water, and more than 2 million (mostly children) die of water-borne diseases every year. Environmentalists oppose the dams and water projects that play an essential role in solving this problem.
- 300 million people contract malaria every year, and 2 million of them die as a result. The 30-year death toll since a DDT ban went into effect stands at 50 million, mostly children and pregnant women, nearly all in the Third World, the majority in sub-Saharan Africa. But radical greens still oppose even limited, carefully controlled use of DDT in homes to combat this killer disease.
- 800 million people worldwide are chronically undernourished. But most sustainability proponents favor severe restrictions on the biotechnology that could replace crops with insect- and drought-resistant varieties, increase crop yields, and reduce both the need for pesticides and the amount of land being farmed.
- 3 billion people live on less than $2.00 a day. The Johannesburg protocols would limit the right of Third World countries to develop. They would also reduce wealth and buying power in *developed* nations—which are important trading partners and sources of foreign aid—and give rich nations a rationale for barring imports that contain biotech products or result from allegedly unsustainable practices.

An elitist vision

The activists' vision is likewise rooted too much in conjectural problems and theoretical needs of future generations—and too little on real, immediate, life-and-death needs of present generations. It focuses too little on fostering economic development, and too much on restricting development—typically in the name of protecting the environment.

Advocates of "sustainable development" also assume humans are rapidly depleting the Earth's natural resources and destroying the planet. Those beliefs have been vigorously challenged by numerous scholars, including Ronald Bailey, Robert Bradley, and the late Julian Simon, whose work appears in this book.

Their work demonstrates that environmental quality has been steadily improving, at least in the developed world, human health has never been better, and we are not running out of anything.

In his "Epilogue," Morris writes, "True sustainable development" requires a shift in focus: away from false perceptions and supposedly desirable outcomes, and toward an institutional framework that allows and encourages people to improve their lives, make the best use of available resources, and improve the environment. That framework must include decentralized ownership and control of property and natural resources, enforceable property and contract rights, free markets, limited regulation, and empowering individuals and communities to take charge of their own futures.

In his essay titled "Why Africa Is Poor," Free Africa Foundation President George Ayittey notes, "what exists in many African countries is a 'vampire' or 'pirate' state—a government hijacked by a phalanx of gangsters, thugs and crooks who use the instruments of the state to enrich themselves, their cronies," their tribesmen, and various bureaucrats and educated elites. The poor get almost nothing—and little of the aid promised at the first sustainability conference in Rio de Janeiro has ever materialized.

And yet, Johannesburg summiteers cynically suggest they would hold foreign aid hostage until African and Asian leaders ratify sustainable development treaties that would prolong this agony.

"True sustainable development requires ... decentralized ownership and control of property and natural resources, enforceable property and contract rights, free markets, limited regulation, and empowering individuals and communities to take charge of their own lives."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW *Sustainable Development: Promoting Progress or Perpetuating Poverty?* is available for $15.00 (plus $3.95 shipping and handling) from the International Policy Network, 1001 Connecticut Avenue NW #1250, Washington, DC 20036.

No wonder Africa's villagers and honest politicians have become so disenchanted with attempts to impose First World treaties and policies on the Third World.

Sustainable institutions

As Morris observes in closing: "It is our duty to ensure that the institutions we pass on to our children, and our children's children, enable them to progress. And we must strive to ensure that institutions which enable progress are adopted widely, so that people alive today are able to improve their lot; to live rather than subsist; to create rather than copy; to be free rather than be oppressed."

It can only be hoped that the sustainable development movement and Johannesburg summit will take heed.

Paul Driessen is a senior fellow for the Washington, DC-based Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow.

E&CN is a tool ... use it!

- Contact an advertiser, buy its product or service ... and be sure to say you saw the ad in *E&CN*
- Clip (or photocopy) an *E&CN* article and send it to your state representative or Congressman with a personal note
- Cite an *E&CN* article in a letter to the editor or article for your local newspaper
- Quote *E&CN* in testimony before a state or local government hearing, or during a speech to your local service group
- Discuss an *E&CN* article with your school-age child ... and his or her teacher

After you've used *E&CN* as a tool in your personal campaign for sound-science, common-sense approaches to environment issues, please let us know! Your story could encourage an advertiser to join our effort, or a grant-maker to help finance our growing circulation.

To report your successes with *E&CN*, use the online form at Heartland's Web site, **www.heartland.org/ILoveECN.htm**, or write

Diane Carol Bast, Editor
Environment & Climate News
The Heartland Institute 19 South LaSalle Street #903 Chicago, IL 60603 email dbast@heartland.org

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

SUMMIT continued from page 1

flame in hopes of observing and participating in a global tongue-lashing of American environmental, economic, and foreign policy. However, as moths often do, the activists got burned.

Delegates from nation after nation agreed with America that economic progress built on the foundations of freedom and democracy is a prerequisite to sustainable growth. As a result, the Johannesburg summit was short on empty promises and long on concrete initiatives to fight environmental degradation and global poverty.

> **"Plans are good, but [only] actions can put clean water in the mouths of thirsty girls and boys, prevent the transmission of a deadly virus from mother to child, and preserve the biodiversity of a fragile African ecosystem. ... We have reaffirmed the principle that sound economic management, investment in people, and responsible stewardship of our environment are crucial for development."**
>
> COLIN POWELL
> U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

Powell announces American programs

During his speech, Powell announced a commitment by President George W. Bush to increase American developmental assistance by 50 percent—from $10 billion to $15 billion per year—for the benefit of global sustainable development. That figure constitutes roughly $100 taxed from every American worker every year.

Powell also announced a South African Housing Initiative to help private contractors build 90,000 houses for a half-million people over the next five years, as well as several new partnerships to expand global access to clean water, affordable energy, sustainable food supplies, forest preservation, and pollution-abatement technologies. Powell's remarks emphasized America's commitment to launching sustainable development programs that supplement democratic and free-market principles rather than working at odds with such principles.

Such announcements by Powell addressed only a few of the dozens of projects the U.S. has recently launched to raise living standards across the planet while protecting environmental interests. For example, the United States had already unveiled at the summit a $2.6 billion partnership with private companies to provide fresh water to the Third World; a $400 million partnership with private companies to increase access to pollution-abatement technologies; an Initiative to Cut Hunger in Africa; a Congo Basin reforestation program; and $1.3 billion in funding to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in developing countries.

In delivering his remarks, Powell emphasized the difference between the rhetoric and unfulfilled promises of prior environmental summits and the concrete programs launched by the United States in Johannesburg. "Plans are good," stated Powell. "But [only] actions can put clean water in the mouths of thirsty girls and boys, prevent the transmission of a deadly virus from mother to child, and preserve the biodiversity of a fragile African ecosystem. ... We have reaffirmed the principle that sound economic management, investment in people, and responsible stewardship of our environment are crucial for development."

Anti-market forces marginalized

Prior to the summit, an editorial in the Canadian *National Post* advised, "If the leaders gathered ... in Johannesburg really want to save the environment, they should concentrate less on eco-rhetoric and more on promoting the free-market conditions that permit poor nations to become rich. The simple truth is that countries grow cleaner as they grow wealthier—no matter whether they've self-consciously dedicated themselves to 'sustainable' policies (whatever those are) or not."

Apparently, the Johannesburg delegates were listening. While market-oriented programs such as those announced by Powell dominated the sustainable development initiatives announced at the summit, anti-market and anti-American

Photo: Stephen Jaffe/AFP

rhetoric was confined to the margins. The result was a summit devoid of the anti-American tongue-lashings that have dominated prior environmental gatherings.

The de facto American leadership at the summit did not please everybody.

The mainstream media were hoping for some verbal fireworks to spice up the evening news, but fireworks were in short supply. Pre-summit predictions, such as the MSNBC headline "U.S. braced for bruising at summit," failed to materialize. The best they could do was quote the usual cast of anti-market activists.

"Big business and polluting governments like the U.S. have joined forces in Johannesburg once again," obliged Greenpeace spokesman Paul Horsman.

However, the grousing by activists failed to overshadow the leadership America demonstrated at the summit.

"Hecklers get a lot of attention, but I was more impressed by the excellent discussions" with representatives from other countries, Powell told reporters.

The American delegation defeated a resolution calling for a mandatory 15 percent increase in the use of renewable energies, such as wind and solar power. Instead of calling for unrealistic goals devoid of economically feasible means of implementation, the American approach deemphasized pie-in-the-sky rhetoric and emphasized concrete programs to improve global economic and environmental conditions. Cooperation with private entities was a centerpiece of the American approach and is designed to ensure efficiency and minimize bureaucratic red tape.

"Central to this approach is the realization that sustainable development is too big for any government alone or any combination of governments," said Powell.

Added Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky, "Hold us accountable for the initiatives we identify and for their successful implementation. At the same time, hold all governments—in developed and developing countries alike—accountable for implementing concrete actions to improve the lot of all our citizens."

James M. Taylor is managing editor of Environment & Climate News.

Critics of U.S. confined to Johannesburg sidelines

With the United States assuming leadership at the World Sustainable Development Summit, the ever-present anti-U.S. crowd was largely relegated to the Johannesburg sidelines. That is not to say, of course, that their rhetoric and demonstrations were entirely absent.

Red-shirted protestors marched in the streets, carrying signs reading "Forward to Socialism," "Don't Owe, Won't Pay," "Israel USA UK—The Toxic Axis of Evil," and "No to Neoliberal Policies and Capitalism." Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa, whose people are struggling to survive a massive food shortage exacerbated by prolonged drought and government mismanagement, pledged to let his people starve to death before he would accept donations of genetically improved American corn. And the usual assortment of activist groups savaged America and other nations for living too high a lifestyle.

Gar Smith, editor for the Earth Island Institute's Web site, argued that rising living standards, together with such modern conveniences as electricity, are "destroying" the cultures of the world's poor people. Smith stated, "There is a lot of quality to be had in poverty. I don't think electricity is a good thing. It is the fuel that powers a lot of multi-national imagery. I have seen villages in Africa that had vibrant culture and great communities that were disrupted and destroyed by the introduction of electricity."

In a challenge directed specifically to Americans, Smith asked, "The real question is what personal conveniences and self-indulgences are you willing to give up in order to stop destroying the planet?"

An Indian environmental activist further criticized the U.S. in the taping of a Johannesburg special hosted by PBS's Bill Moyers. The panelist complained about the "pernicious introduction of the flush toilet."

Apparently, a good portion of the world's self-proclaimed environmentalists believe flushing human excrement away through modern plumbing devices is a waste of water.

Instead, they hold up the Asian example where, according to the Asia Travel Mart Web site, "A bucket and ladle serve an integral role in both bathing and toiletry." Hand removal of excrement, followed presumably by hand-washing, is common in many parts of Asia. "Toilet paper is not available in most homes," states Asia Travel Mart.

Green-activist-turned-free-market-advocate Bjorn Lomborg participated on the same panel. According to Lomborg, household water consumption accounts for only 8 percent of human water use, with flush toilets accounting for a still smaller portion of that 8 percent. Agriculture accounts for 69 percent of human water use, with industry using another 23 percent.

"You don't start with making the 8 percent more efficient," said Lomborg.

Patrick Moore, another former Green activist who made the conversion to free-market environmentalism, stated people who would ban electricity and flush toilets hold "a naive vision of returning to some kind of Garden of Eden, which was actually not that great because the average life span was 35."

Added Moore, "The environmentalists try to inject guilt into people for consuming, as if consuming by itself causes destruction to the environment. There is no truth to that. You have the wealthiest countries on Earth with the best-looked-after environments."

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Become a grassroots activist for sound science and free-market environmentalism.

People across the U.S. are coming together to form a new environmental movement based on sound science and free markets. This movement consists of hundreds of thousands of people just like you, who believe in common-sense solutions, respect for property rights, and economic progress as well as a safe and clean environment.

Public policies will change only when elected officials hear from thousands of people who want change. It's up to you to speak out. Starting today, you can write one letter a week to an elected official or your local newspaper. Together, we can show there is public support for common-sense environmentalism.

✓Write to your elected officials

Find out who your Senators, Congressman, state senator, and state representative are by visiting www.getactive.atr.org, and then contact them by email, phone, fax, or letter. Send an article from this issue of *Environment & Climate News* along with your letter, or quote from one of the articles. Tell them you oppose public policies based on junk science.

✓Share this information with friends, neighbors, and coworkers

Use the reply form on **page 20** to give your friends and neighbors free subscriptions to *Environment & Climate News*. Urge them to get active, too.

✓Join a state or local organization that shares your values

Visit Heartland's Web site at www.heartland.org and find the think tank or advocacy group in your state that supports free-market ideas. Learn about their work and become a member.

✓Contact your local media

Point out junk science and anti-market bias in letters to your daily newspaper. Brief letters— just three or four sentences—that refer in the first sentence to an article in a recent issue have the best chance of being published. They take only a few minutes to write and submit!

Support The Heartland Institute

Join 1,500 members and donors of The Heartland Institute so we can continue to distribute *Environment & Climate News* and our other publications for free to elected officials and tens of thousands of potential grassroots activists. Use the reply form on page 6 or become a member online at www.heartland.org.

The Heartland Institute
The power of ideas

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Help us build a grassroots movement for environment reform!

Please complete and return one of the cards below to receive *Environment & Climate News* for free for one year. Urge your friends and colleagues to fill out the other forms!

Return this entire form today for a FREE subscription to Environment & Climate News!

Please check ONLY ONE section:

_____**BUSINESS LEADERS**
Which of the following most accurately describes your position:
_____Owner or principal
_____Public relations/marketing
_____Legal/government affairs

_____**PUBLIC OFFICIALS**
Were you:
_____Elected _____Appointed

On what government level do you serve:
_____Federal
_____State
_____Local or Regional

_____**ACTIVISTS**
Which of the following most accurately describes your interest in environment issues:
_____Landowner
_____Environmentalist
_____Lobbyist
_____Public policy analyst

_____**MEDIA**
Are you a journalist who reports or writes about environment issues?
_____Yes _____No

Do you work for:
_____print media
_____electronic media
_____both

_____**TEACHER**

Return by Mail to: The Heartland Institute, 19 S. LaSalle, Suite 903, Chicago, IL 60603 or fax this entire form to 312/377-5000.

The information you have provided will be kept strictly confidential. The Heartland Institute from time to time offers its mailing list to organizations whose goals are similar to ours. If you prefer not to be contacted by such groups, please check here._____

Signature Required Below

NAME
TITLE
BUSINESS
STREET
CITY/STATE/ZIP
PHONE NUMBER

Return this entire form today for a FREE subscription to Environment & Climate News!

Please check ONLY ONE section:

_____**BUSINESS LEADERS**
Which of the following most accurately describes your position:
_____Owner or principal
_____Public relations/marketing
_____Legal/government affairs

_____**PUBLIC OFFICIALS**
Were you:
_____Elected _____Appointed

On what government level do you serve:
_____Federal
_____State
_____Local or Regional

_____**ACTIVISTS**
Which of the following most accurately describes your interest in environment issues:
_____Landowner
_____Environmentalist
_____Lobbyist
_____Public policy analyst

_____**MEDIA**
Are you a journalist who reports or writes about environment issues?
_____Yes _____No

Do you work for:
_____print media
_____electronic media
_____both

_____**TEACHER**

Return by Mail or Fax this entire form to 312.377.5000

The information you have provided will be kept strictly confidential. The Heartland Institute from time to time offers its mailing list to organizations whose goals are similar to ours. If you prefer not to be contacted by such groups, please check here._____

Signature Required Below

NAME
TITLE
BUSINESS
STREET
CITY/STATE/ZIP
PHONE NUMBER

Return this entire form today for a FREE subscription to Environment & Climate News!

Please check ONLY ONE section:

_____**BUSINESS LEADERS**
Which of the following most accurately describes your position:
_____Owner or principal
_____Public relations/marketing
_____Legal/government affairs

_____**PUBLIC OFFICIALS**
Were you:
_____Elected _____Appointed

On what government level do you serve:
_____Federal
_____State
_____Local or Regional

_____**ACTIVISTS**
Which of the following most accurately describes your interest in environment issues:
_____Landowner
_____Environmentalist
_____Lobbyist
_____Public policy analyst

_____**MEDIA**
Are you a journalist who reports or writes about environment issues?
_____Yes _____No

Do you work for:
_____print media
_____electronic media
_____both

_____**TEACHER**

Return by Mail or Fax this entire form to 312.377.5000

The information you have provided will be kept strictly confidential. The Heartland Institute from time to time offers its mailing list to organizations whose goals are similar to ours. If you prefer not to be contacted by such groups, please check here._____

Signature Required Below

NAME
TITLE
BUSINESS
STREET
CITY/STATE/ZIP
PHONE NUMBER

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED